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DARK MYSTERIES

JULY 1952

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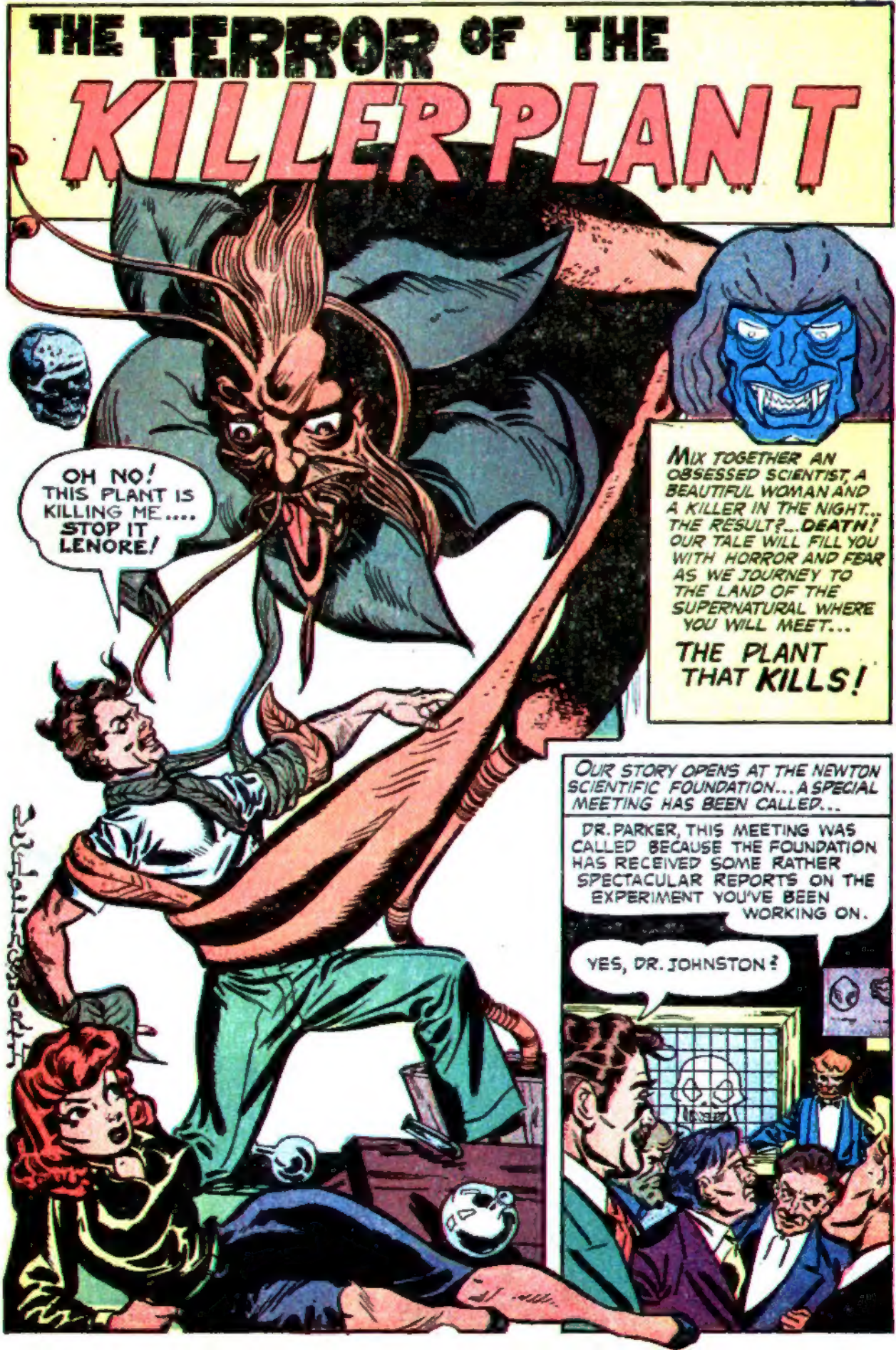
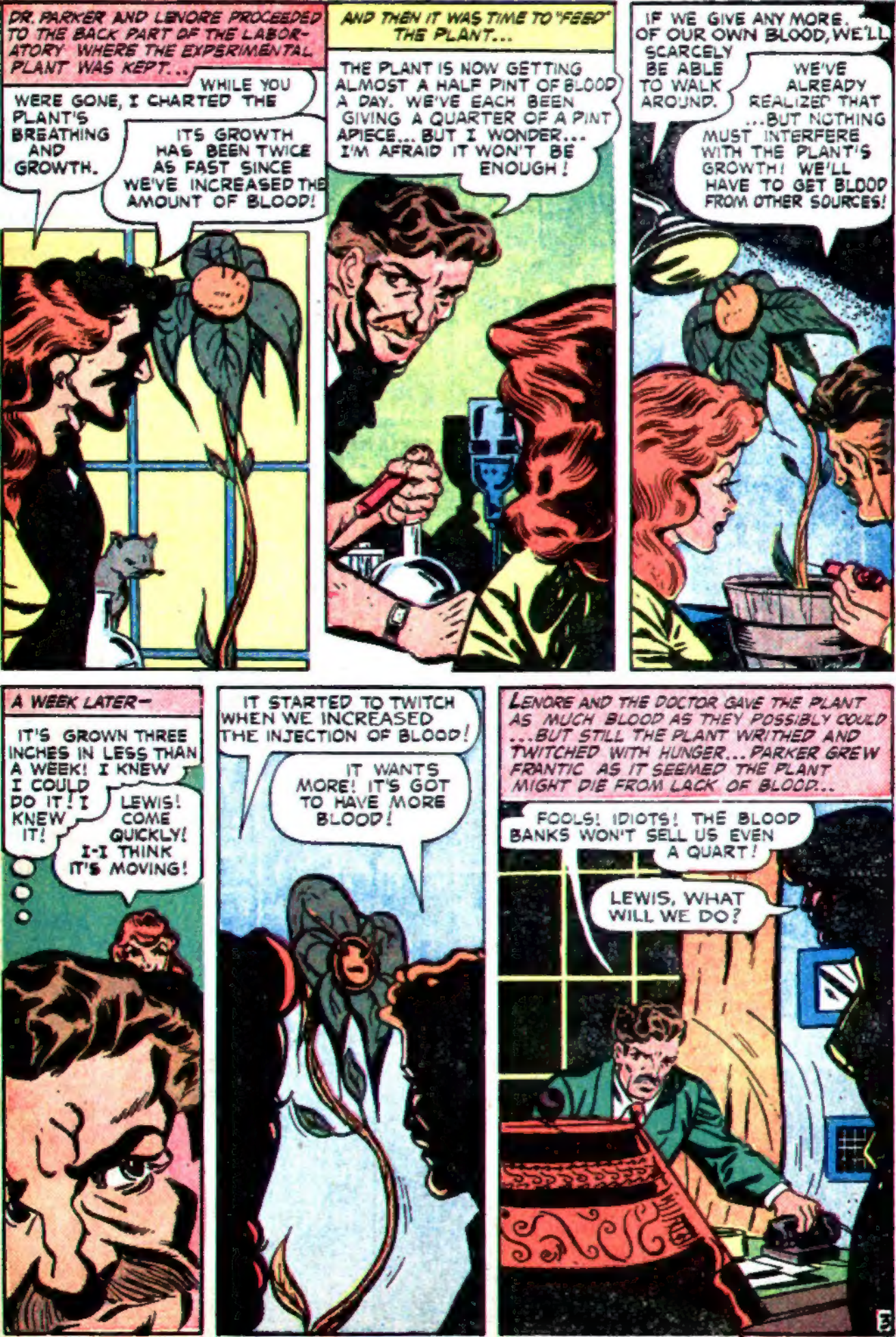
THE TERROR OF THE KILLER PLANT



PRINTED IN CANADA—DARK MYSTERIES

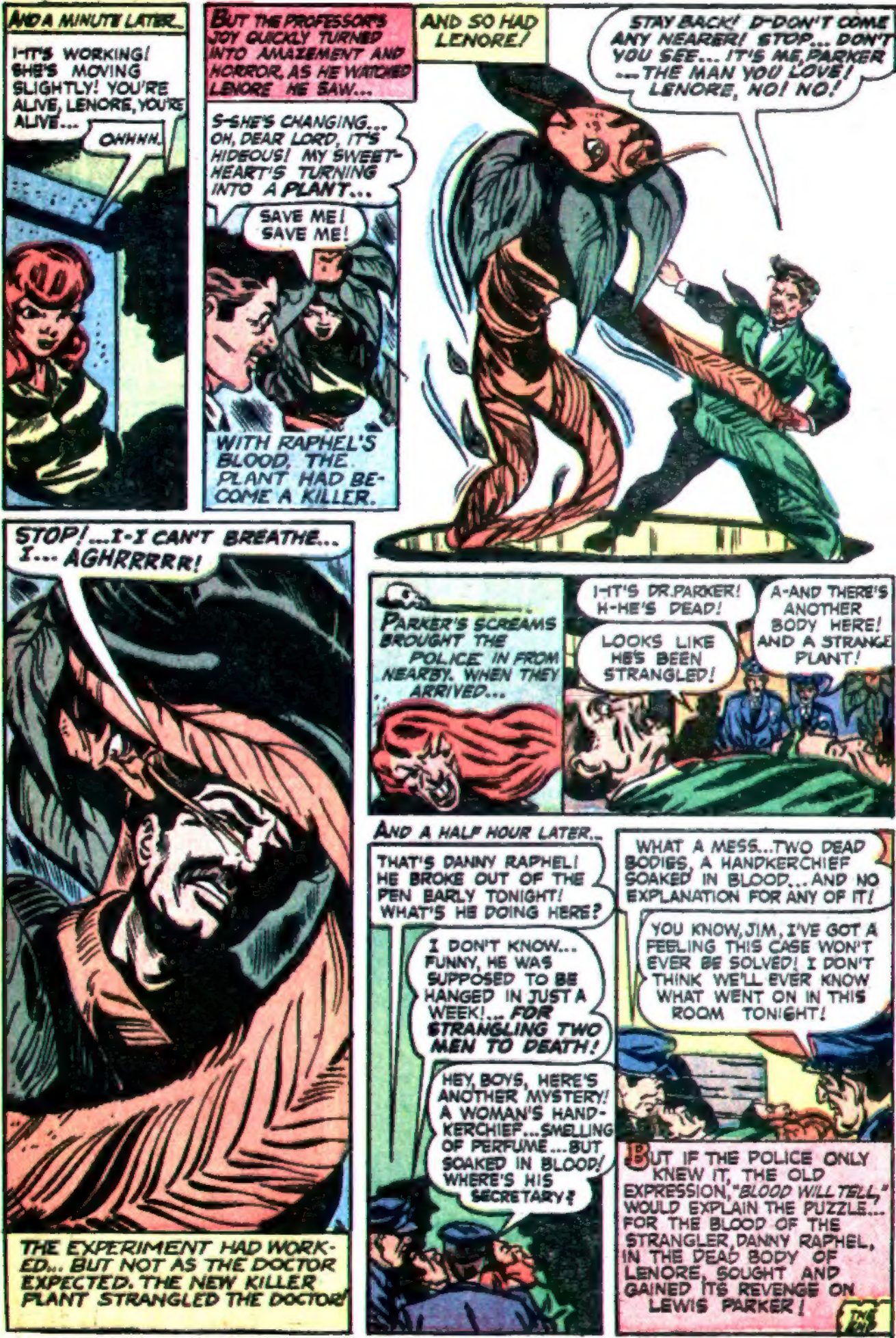
NATURALLY, WE DON'T WISH TO PRY INTO YOUR SECRET WORK... BUT IT IS YOUR DUTY TO CAST NO UNFAVORABLE REFLECTIONS UPON US NOW CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK?
I'LL BE HAPPY TO, GENTLEMEN! IT IS AN EXPERIMENT WHICH WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY...
...IN A SHORT TIME, I WILL TURN PLANTS INTO HUMAN BEINGS!
WHAT! HE MUST BE CRAZY! IMPOSSIBLE!
BY INJECTING HUMAN BLOOD AND MY SECRET FORMULA INTO YOUNG PLANTS, I'M CONVINCED...
BLOOD AND FORMULA... HA! HA! WHAT A LAUGH! HA! HA! RIDICULOUS! HA! HA!
BEFORE THE MEETING COULD BE CALLED TO ORDER, PARKER, IN A FIT OF FURY, STALKED OUT...
LAUGH, YOU FOOLS... BUT SOON, YOU'LL COME BEGGING MY FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR STUPIDITY!
HA! HA!
HA!
HA!
I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL SHOW THE WORLD! THERE'LL BE NO LAUGHTER THEN!
WHEN DR. PARKER REACHED HIS PRIVATE LABORATORY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...
LEWIS, DARLING, HOW DID IT GO? WAS THE BOARD IMPRESSED? DID TH...
THEY'RE IDIOTS, LENORE! BLIND STUPID IDIOTS! BUT WE WILL SHOW THEM... IF IT IS THE LAST THING I DO ON THIS EARTH, I'LL MAKE THEM TAKE BACK THEIR LAUGHTER!
LAUGHTER! HOW DARE THEY LAUGH AT THE GREATEST SCIENTIST THIS COUNTRY WAS EVER BLESSED WITH? OH, LEWIS, I LOVE YOU SO!
THANK YOU, MY DARLING. YOU'RE A GREAT COMFORT AND HELP TO ME, BUT LET'S GET TO WORK NOW!
LENORE FRANKLIN HAD BEEN DR. PARKER'S ASSISTANT FOR OVER A YEAR. SHE WAS CONVINCED HE WAS A GENIUS...
2


DR. PARKER AND LENORE PROCEEDED TO THE BACK PART OF THE LABORATORY WHERE THE EXPERIMENTAL PLANT WAS KEPT...
WHILE YOU WERE GONE, I CHARTED THE PLANT'S BREATHING AND GROWTH.
ITS GROWTH HAS BEEN TWICE AS FAST SINCE WE'VE INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD!
AND THEN IT WAS TIME TO "FEED" THE PLANT...
THE PLANT IS NOW GETTING ALMOST A HALF PINT OF BLOOD A DAY. WE'VE EACH BEEN GIVING A QUARTER OF A PINT APIECE... BUT I WONDER... I'M AFRAID IT WON'T BE ENOUGH!
IF WE GIVE ANY MORE OF OUR OWN BLOOD, WE'LL SCARCELY BE ABLE TO WALK AROUND.
WE'VE ALREADY REALIZED THAT ...BUT NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH THE PLANT'S GROWTH! WE'LL HAVE TO GET BLOOD FROM OTHER SOURCES!
A WEEK LATER—
IT'S GROWN THREE INCHES IN LESS THAN A WEEK! I KNEW I COULD DO IT! I KNEW IT!
LEWIS! COME QUICKLY! I-I THINK IT'S MOVING!
IT STARTED TO TWITCH WHEN WE INCREASED THE INJECTION OF BLOOD!
IT WANTS MORE! IT'S GOT TO HAVE MORE BLOOD!
LENORE AND THE DOCTOR GAVE THE PLANT AS MUCH BLOOD AS THEY POSSIBLY COULD ...BUT STILL THE PLANT WRITHED AND TWITCHED WITH HUNGER... PARKER GREW FRANTIC AS IT SEEMED THE PLANT MIGHT DIE FROM LACK OF BLOOD...
FOOLS! IDIOTS! THE BLOOD BANKS WON'T SELL US EVEN A QUART!
LEWIS, WHAT WILL WE DO?

THE EVENING NEWSPAPER SUPPLIED THE ANSWER...
LENORE, IT'S ALL RIGHT! I KNOW WHERE TO GET THE BLOOD! I KNOW THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF THAT CULT... AND THE BODY WON'T BE EMBALMED!
MAHANTRA LOA, ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING MEMBERS OF A FAR EASTERN CULT DIES AT HOME. FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD
HAD THE MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION FOLLOWED DR. PARKER'S ACTIVITIES, THE NEXT NIGHT, THEIR DERISIVE LAUGHTER WOULD INDEED HAVE STOPPED... FOR IT WAS NO LONGER A LAUGHING MATTER...
IT SHOULD BE RIGHT OVER THERE...
AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WITHIN AN HOUR THE PLANT WILL BE FED... MANY THANKS, MR. LOA!
MANHAIN!
PARKER WAS RIGHT. WITHIN THE NEXT HOUR...
LOOK HOW IT MOVES TOWARD THE SYRINGES! LENORE, THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT... WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS!
I'M SURE OF IT TOO, LEWIS... IF ONLY THE BLOOD HOLDS OUT!
THE BLOOD FROM THE STOLEN BODY LASTED TEN DAYS, AND THEN...
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE THE PLANT GOT OVER A PINT OF BLOOD! IT LOOKS AWFUL!
IT'S STARVING... MY EXPERIMENT, MY DREAM IS DYING FROM HUNGER! I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN... I'LL DO ANYTHING TO FEED IT!
IN A SECTION OF THE TOWN NOT FAR FROM THE PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY ANOTHER MAN WAS SCREAMING A KILLER HAD ESCAPED FROM PRISON!
WARDEN, RAPHEL'S ESCAPED! HE MADE IT OVER THE WALL!
WHAT! GOOD LORD, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EXECUTED IN A WEEK! SEND OUT A STATE-WIDE ALARM! HE'S GOT TO BE CAUGHT!
4

MINUTES LATER...
ONE OF OUR SHOTS MUST'VE GOTTEN HIM JUST AS HE WENT OVER THE WALL, WARDEN! WE FOUND SOME BLOOD STAINS A FEW FEET AWAY FROM THE SPOT WHERE HE LANDED!
GOOD! THAT SHOULD SLOW HIM UP SOME!
LATER THAT NIGHT, BACK AT DR. PARKER'S LABORATORY...
WHAT CAN I DO? IF SOMETH... WHAT'S THAT? ... SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING DROPPED AGAINST THE BACK DOOR.
THUDDDD-D-D!
IT'S A MAN!... AND HE'S BEEN WOUNDED! LENORE! COME QUICKLY! I NEED YOU!
DOCTOR PARKER M.D.
THEY GOT THE MAN INSIDE— THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS RAPHEL THE KILLER!
THE BULLET ENTERED HIS RIGHT SHOULDER... IT'S NOT TOO SERIOUS. HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD WHICH HAS WEAKENED HIM.
WE'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE... HE NEEDS HOSPITAL CARE!
MOAN! MOAN!
WAIT! DON'T CALL THEM! I'VE GOT ANOTHER PLAN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T YOU SEE... THIS MAN IS THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS! HE'LL PROVIDE THE BLOOD THE PLANT NEEDS!
OH, LEWIS... IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT! THIS MAN'S ALIVE! IF YOU TAKE BLOOD FROM HIM, HE'LL DIE!
DON'T BE SILLY, LITTLE FOOL! WHAT'S ONE MAN'S LIFE IN COMPARISON WITH OUR WORK?
I-IT'S SO INHUMAN, LEWIS!
5

DR. PARKER IGNORED LENORE'S PROTESTS AND TOOK HUGE QUANTITIES OF BLOOD FROM THE STRANGER'S VEINS...
OH, L-LEWIS... YOU'RE KILLING HIM! HE'S DYING!
PERHAPS HE IS... BUT THE PLANT LIVES ON!
WITH ONE LAST SHUDDER THE BODY OF THE STRANGER GAVE UP ITS LIFE... WITH THAT, LENORE BROKE UNDER THE STRAIN...
YOU'RE A KILLER! A VICIOUS HEARTLESS KILLER!
WHAT THE...
LENORE AND THE PROFESSOR STRUGGLED VIOLENTLY... BUT IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE...
YOU IDIOT! LET GO OF THAT SYRINGE!
I WON'T! I... AGHRRR!
AND LENORE HAD JABBED HERSELF WITH A SYRINGE!
THE SIGHT OF HIS SWEETHEART LYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD ON THE FLOOR SUDDENLY BROUGHT PARKER TO HIS SENSES...
OH, GOOD LORD... W-WHAT HAVE I DONE! LENORE, MY DARLING! Y-YOU'RE DYING!
IN HIS PANIC, DR. PARKER HIT UPON A DESPERATE PLAN...
T-THERE'S ONE CHANCE LEFT... SHE'S LOST SO MUCH BLOOD! PERHAPS AN INJECTION OF NEW BLOOD WILL RESTORE HER TO ME! I'LL TAKE THE BLOOD FROM THE PLANT... WITHOUT HER I AM LOST.
AND SO, HEEDLESS OF THE LOSS OF HIS EXPERIMENT, DR. PARKER TOOK THE KILLER'S BLOOD FROM THE PLANT, AND INJECTED IT INTO THE VEINS OF LENORE...


AND A MINUTE LATER...
I-IT'S WORKING! SHE'S MOVING SLIGHTLY! YOU'RE ALIVE, LENORE, YOU'RE ALIVE...
OHHHH.
BUT THE PROFESSOR'S JOY QUICKLY TURNED INTO AMAZEMENT AND HORROR, AS HE WATCHED LENORE HE SAW...
S-SHE'S CHANGING... OH, DEAR LORD, IT'S HIDEOUS! MY SWEETHEART'S TURNING INTO A PLANT...
SAVE ME! SAVE ME!
WITH RAPHEL'S BLOOD, THE PLANT HAD BECOME A KILLER.
AND SO HAD LENORE!
STAY BACK! D-DON'T COME ANY NEARER! STOP... DON'T YOU SEE... IT'S ME, PARKER ...THE MAN YOU LOVE! LENORE, NO! NO!
STOP!...I-I CAN'T BREATHE... I... AGHRRRRR!
THE EXPERIMENT HAD WORKED... BUT NOT AS THE DOCTOR EXPECTED. THE NEW KILLER PLANT STRANGLED THE DOCTOR!
PARKER'S SCREAMS BROUGHT THE POLICE IN FROM NEARBY. WHEN THEY ARRIVED...
I-IT'S DR. PARKER! H-HE'S DEAD!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN STRANGLED!
A-AND THERE'S ANOTHER BODY HERE! AND A STRANGE PLANT!
AND A HALF HOUR LATER...
THAT'S DANNY RAPHEL! HE BROKE OUT OF THE PEN EARLY TONIGHT! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
I DON'T KNOW... FUNNY, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HANGED IN JUST A WEEK!... FOR STRANGLING TWO MEN TO DEATH!
HEY, BOYS, HERE'S ANOTHER MYSTERY! A WOMAN'S HANDKERCHIEF... SMELLING OF PERFUME... BUT SOAKED IN BLOOD! WHERE'S HIS SECRETARY?
WHAT A MESS... TWO DEAD BODIES, A HANDKERCHIEF SOAKED IN BLOOD... AND NO EXPLANATION FOR ANY OF IT!
YOU KNOW, JIM, I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS CASE WON'T EVER BE SOLVED! I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER KNOW WHAT WENT ON IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT!
BUT IF THE POLICE ONLY KNEW IT, THE OLD EXPRESSION, "BLOOD WILL TELL," WOULD EXPLAIN THE PUZZLE... FOR THE BLOOD OF THE STRANGLER, DANNY RAPHEL, IN THE DEAD BODY OF LENORE, SOUGHT AND GAINED ITS REVENGE ON LEWIS PARKER!
THE END

THERE ARE MANY STRANGE THINGS IN THE WORLD! BUT NONE IS SO STRANGE AS A TERRIBLE CURSE THAT CAN BRING TERROR AND FEAR! WARREN LAWRENCE HAD A GREED FOR POWER AND FAME, AND CRUSHED EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH THAT DARED OPPOSE HIM--UNTIL THE WRETCHEDNESS OF HIS OWN EVIL AMBITION CAUSED THE VERY FINISH OF HIS OWN CAREER THROUGH AN INSTRUMENT OF HORROR...

the HAND of DEATH!

TAKE IT OFF ME, DOCTOR! HELP! IT'S CHOKING THE BREATH OUT OF ME! ARGHHH!

WHAT IS IT, GOVERNOR? I DON'T SEE ANY-THING! WHAT IS IT?

THAT NIGHT HATE WAS IN THE STUDY OF ARTHUR CARTWRIGHT, THE MUCH RESPECTED NATIONAL FIGURE IN HIS COMMUNITY! HATE IS A VIOLENT EMOTION-- AN EMOTION THAT OFTEN LEADS TO STRANGE HORROR!

THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING...

HELLO! WHO'S THERE?

CARTWRIGHT HAD JUST RE-TURNED FROM EUROPE! NOW HE WAS MEETING FATE!

ARRGHH! NO, DON'T! URGHH!

YOU'RE GETT-ING EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESERVE! YOU HYPOCRITE!

THE UNKNOWN HAD STRUCK! CARTWRIGHT HAD HAD MANY ENEMIES...WHO KNOWS WHICH ONE HAD COMMITTED THE DASTARDLY ACT? BUT A SHOCKED NATION READ THAT NEXT MORNING'S HEADLINE'S...

AND IN THE OFFICE OF WARREN LAWRENCE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE NEWS BROUGHT INSTANTANEOUS ACTION...

WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A HORRIBLE THING TO AN IMPORTANT CITIZEN?

I DON'T KNOW WHO, BUT CONVICT A LOGICAL SUSPECT, AND I'LL MAKE YOU GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE, WARREN!

WARREN
DISTRICT A

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BRADY? ARE YOU CRAZY?

I'M PARTY LEADER, WARREN--AND IF YOU CAN GET INTO THE LIMELIGHT BY CONVICTING CARTWRIGHT'S MURDERER, THIS STATE'S VOTERS WILL PUT YOU INTO THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION!

NOW TURN BACK THE TIME TO WHEN HANS BALORE, IMMIGRANT, STOOD AT THE RAILING OF THE SHIP THAT BROUGHT HIM TO AMERICA A WEEK BEFORE-

AT LAST! AMERICA! FRIEDA WILL BE PROUD OF ME. AND WHEN I'M SETTLED HERE, I'LL SEND FOR HER!

HANS BALORE WAS A FARMER IN THE OLD COUNTRY! FRIEDA AND HE WERE TO BE MARRIED, BUT AN ACCIDENT HAD CHANGED HIS ENTIRE LIFE! HIS MIND WENT BACK TO THAT DAY ON THE FARM...

OWWCHH!

OH, DARLING! YOUR FINGER..

YES, I KNOW! IT'S BEEN CUT OFF! THAT SETTLES IT! I'M THROUGH WITH FARMING!

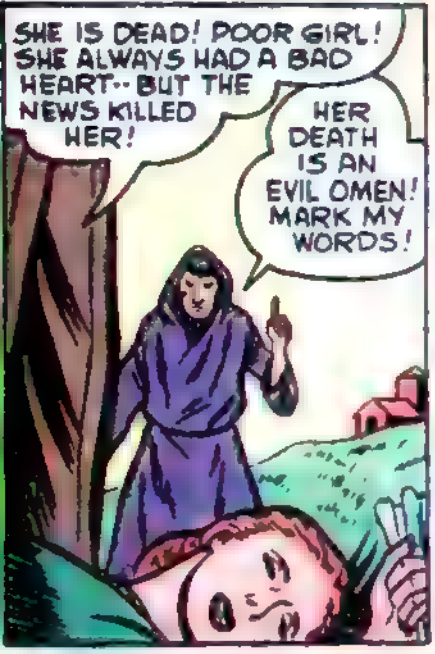
HANS, DEAR, DON'T TALK! I'LL SEND FOR DR. POLESCK! RIGHT AWAY!

MY MIND IS MADE UP, FRIEDA! I'M LEAVING THIS COUNTRY! I'M GOING TO AMERICA TO TRY MY FORTUNE!

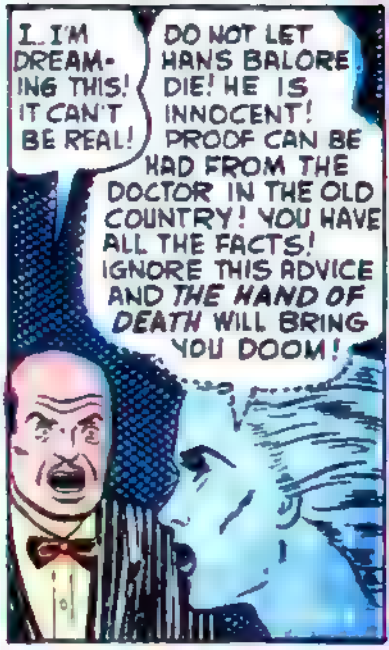
WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME?

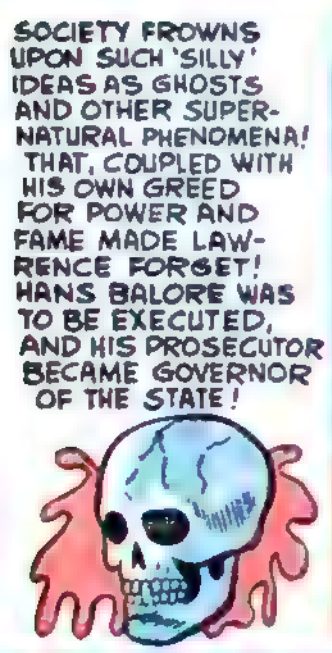
OF COURSE, HANS! BUT SEND FOR ME SOON... VERY SOON!

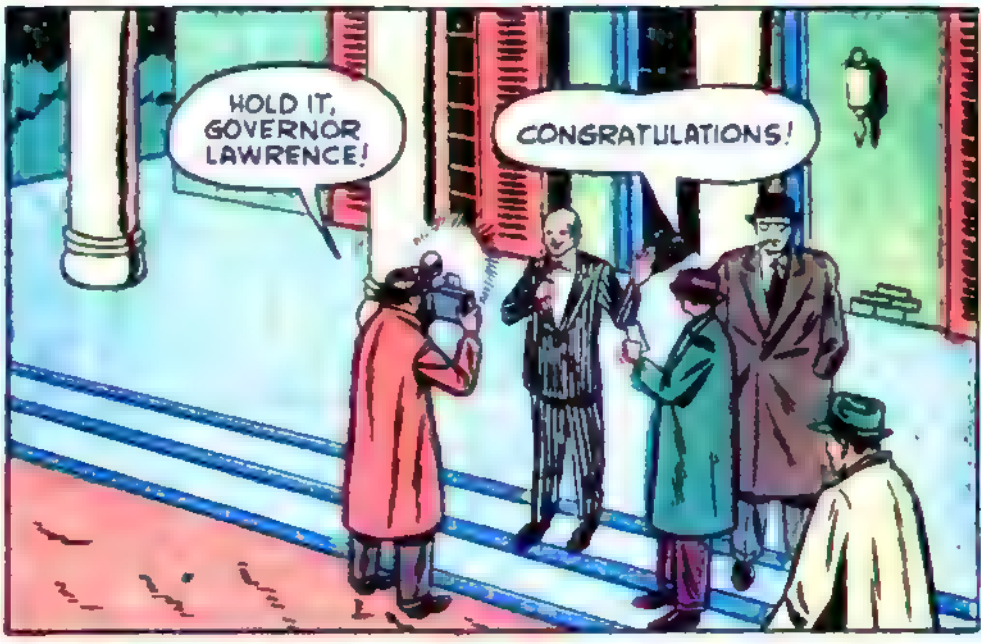
SO NOW, HANS BALORE HAD ARRIVED IN AMERICA, AND WAS JUST ABOUT TO DISEMBARK WHEN ARTHUR CARTWRIGHT, ALSO ON BOARD THE SHIP, RETURNING FROM A BUSY TOUR, ACCIDENTALLY JOSTLED HIM--
GET OUT OF MY WAY, OAF!
OOF! HOW DARE YOU PUSH ME? I WILL NOT MOVE ASIDE!
WHY YOU IGNORANT PEASANT! I'LL--I'LL--
I HAVE KNOWN YOUR KIND BEFORE, ARROGANT JACK-ASS! THE NAZIS WERE AS YOU, BUT I DID NOT THINK AMERICA WOULD HARBOR SUCH ILL-MANNERED CITIZENS!
THE INCIDENT WAS HUSHED UP AND FORGOTTEN! TWO DAYS LATER CARTWRIGHT'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED AND PEOPLE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THE VICIOUS ARGUMENT, AND IN BALORE'S MODEST FURNISHED ROOM THAT NIGHT...
OKAY, BALORE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
WHA...!?
ARTHUR CARTWRIGHT HAD BEEN FOUND WITH A FINGERPRINT MARK ON HIS BRUISED THROAT, AND AN OVER-AMBITIOUS D.A. SAW A GOOD CASE...
I TOLD YOU, I KNOW NOTHING!
YOU DID IT, BALORE! YOU CUT YOUR FINGER OFF, IT'S NOT EVEN HEALED YET! NOW CONFESS!
HE PURPOSELY CUT OFF HIS FINGER! HE KNEW WE HAD THAT ONE FINGERPRINT! HE'S GUILTY! CONVICT HIM, I SAY!
DISTRICT ATTORNEY LAWRENCE DEMANDE THE JURY FIND BALORE GUILTY!
BALORE TRIED TO TELL THEM HE HAD ACCIDENTALLY CUT IT OFF ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO--HE TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT IT WAS NO USE! THE TRAIL CAME TO A SPEEDY CONCLUSION...
...DEATH IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
I'M INNOCENT! LAWRENCE, I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE! REVENGE!
BALORE WAS GOING TO DIE...AND THE NEWS GOT BACK EVEN TO FRIEDA IN EUROPE!
NO! IT...IT CANNOT BE! I MUST HELP HIM! OHH... MY HEART!
FRIEDA!
3


SHE IS DEAD! POOR GIRL! SHE ALWAYS HAD A BAD HEART-- BUT THE NEWS KILLED HER!
HER DEATH IS AN EVIL OMEN! MARK MY WORDS!

THAT DAY LAWRENCE HAD BEEN WORKING IN HIS ROOM WHEN A STRANGE, SWIRLING MIST ENGULFED HIM AND SLOWLY TOOK SHAPE...
YAAH! W-WHO-- WHAT ARE YOU?
IT DOES NOT MATTER, MORTAL! BUT HEED MY WARNING!


I..I'M DREAMING THIS! IT CAN'T BE REAL!
DO NOT LET HANS BALORE DIE! HE IS INNOCENT! PROOF CAN BE HAD FROM THE DOCTOR IN THE OLD COUNTRY! YOU HAVE ALL THE FACTS! IGNORE THIS ADVICE AND THE HAND OF DEATH WILL BRING YOU DOOM!


SOCIETY FROWNS UPON SUCH 'SILLY' IDEAS AS GHOSTS AND OTHER SUPER-NATURAL PHENOMENA! THAT, COUPLED WITH HIS OWN GREED FOR POWER AND FAME MADE LAWRENCE FORGET! HANS BALORE WAS TO BE EXECUTED, AND HIS PROSECUTOR BECAME GOVERNOR OF THE STATE!


HOLD IT, GOVERNOR LAWRENCE!
CONGRATULATIONS!

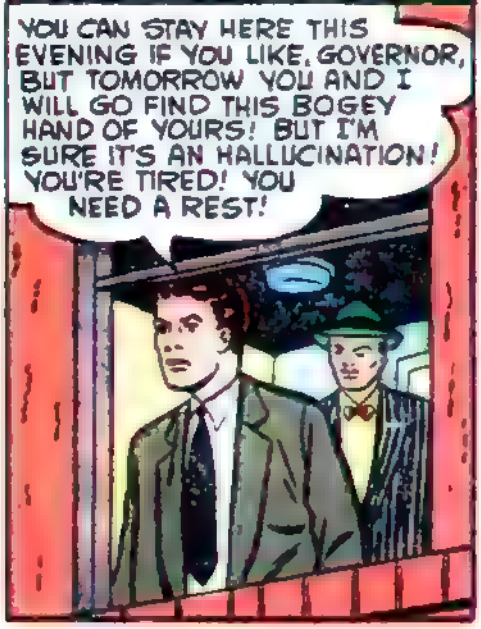
PERHAPS FRIEDA HAD DIED TO HELP HANS, BUT NOTHING HELPED AND IN DESPERATION HANS CUT OFF THE HAND THAT CONVICTED HIM...
AAAHEE!

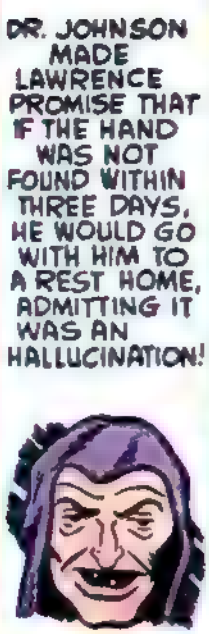
THE WARDEN TELEPHONED LAWRENCE TO TELL HIM OF THE DEED...
IT'S AN EVIL OMEN! WHAT SHALL WE DO, GOVERNOR LAWRENCE?
BURY THE HAND AND KEEP IT QUITE!

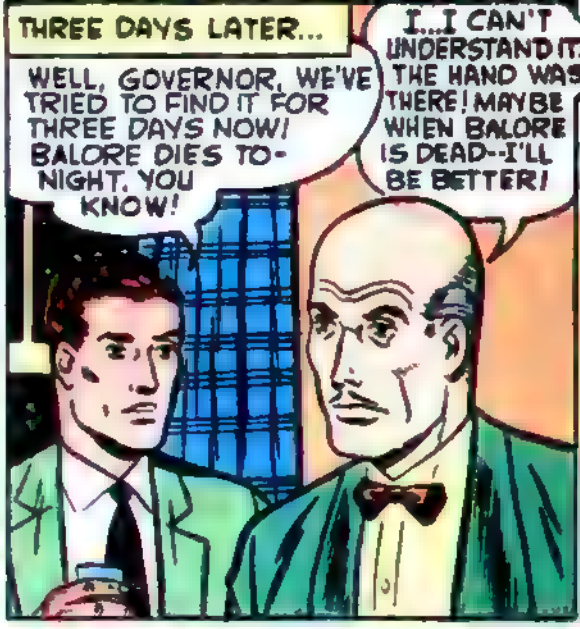
SOME DAYS AFTER HIS INAUGURATION, GOVERNOR LAWRENCE WAS EATING BREAKFAST WHEN...
BEG PARDON, SIR... BUT THIS PACKAGE CAME FOR YOU!
LEAVE IT IN THE OTHER ROOM, PARSONS! I'LL OPEN IT LATER!

WHEN THE GOVERNOR LOOKED AT THE PACKAGE, HE FOUND IT OPEN AND A NOTE LYING INSIDE...
HELLO! WHY--IT'S EMPTY! NO! THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE! IT LOOKS LIKE A WILL!
THIS IS MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. I BEQUEATH MY RIGHT HAND TO WARREN LAWRENCE! MAY HE HAVE USE FOR IT AS I NEVER COULD! HANS BALORE!" IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF A JOKE, I'LL PUNISH THE CULPRITS!
THE DAY PASSED UNEASILY FOR LAWRENCE, AND THAT NIGHT HE RETIRED IN EVIL HUMOR, DISMISSING THE INCIDENT FROM HIS GUILTY CONSCIENCE! BUT MINUTES LATER..
I HEARD SOMETHING AT THE FOOT MY BED...
GOOD LORD! A DISMEMBERED HAND!
YAAAH! HELP! HELP! IT'S COMING FOR MY THROAT!
THE HAND HAD FOUR FINGERS!
WHAT IS IT, SIR? CAN WE HELP YOU?
IT...IT WAS SOMEONE'S HAND! FIND IT! T-TAKE IT AWAY!
A HAND, SIR? BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS ROOM!
AND, OF COURSE, THEY FOUND NOTHING! BUT LAWRENCE KNEW IT WAS THERE! AFTER THEY HAD GONE, HE CORNERED THAT FRIGHTFUL HAND AND FLUNG IT INTO A BOX! MOMENTS LATER, HE WAS RUNNING TOWARDS THE LAKE...
NO ONE SAW THE HAND BUT ME! I KNOW IT'S REAL! BUT I'LL GET RID OF IT BEFORE ANYONE FINDS THIS OUT!
THERE, IT'S DONE! PEOPLE WILL THINK I'M CRAZY IF I EVER TOLD THEM ABOUT THIS! BRR... I CAN STILL SEE THAT--THAT TERRIBLE HAND CREEPING TOWARDS ME!
SPLASH!
5

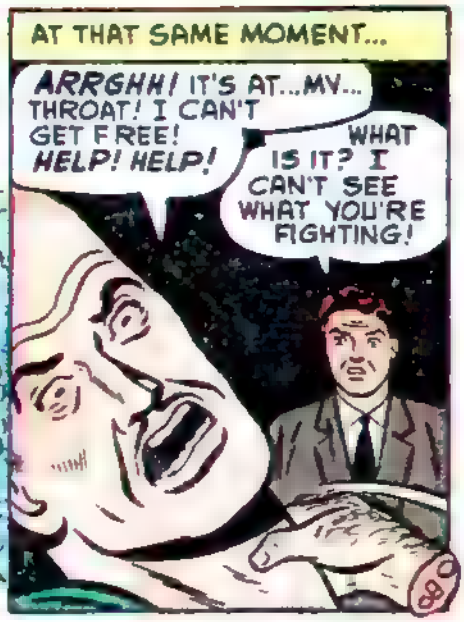
BUT THAT NEXT AFTERNOON, THE DOORBELL RANG, AND WHEN THE BUTLER WENT TO ANSWER IT, HE BROUGHT BACK SOMETHING THAT MADE LAWRENCE'S BLOOD FREEZE IN HIS VEINS...
NO ONE WAS AT THE DOOR, SIR -- BUT THIS BOX!
YAAA! IT RETURNED! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME!
GIVE ME THAT!
WHOEVER'S PLAYING THIS TERRIBLE JOKE ON ME WON'T SEE IT'S FINISH! I'LL BURN THAT HIDEOUS THING TO A CRISP!
BUT THE NEXT MORNING, LAWRENCE RECEIVED A VISIT FROM THE NEW D.A.
GOVERNOR, THE JUDGE WHO CONVICTED BELORE, JUDGE STONE, WAS FOUND STRANGLED TO DEATH THIS MORNING!
IF YOU DON'T GET THE KILLER, IT'LL MEAN YOUR JOB!
WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS HOUSE LATER, HIS MIND STILL COULD NOT THROW OFF THE NUMBING HORROR OF THAT ACCURSED HAND AND THE DEATH OF JUDGE STONE...
THAT APPARITION WARNED ME! "THE HAND OF DEATH!" IT SAID, WOULD DOOM ME! NO! I...I'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF! IT'S GONE FOR GOOD! JUDGE STONE'S DEATH WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE!
OH, MY GOD! THERE IT IS! BUT IT CAN'T BE! I BURNT IT! I CAN'T ESCAPE FROM IT! I CAN'T ESCAPE!
IS SOMEONE INSIDE THE ROOM, SIR? I'LL EXAMINE IT IF YOU LIKE!
NO! PUFF...PUFF...NO ONE IS TO ENTER, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? NO ONE! I WANT THIS DOOR LOCKED AT ALL TIMES! UNTIL I GET BACK!
THE PANIC-STRICKEN, NOW THOROUGHLY TERRIFIED MAN RUSHED OVER TO SEE DR. MAT JOHNSON, THE WELL KNOWN PSYCHIATRIST, IT WAS AN HOUR LATER...
NOW, YOU KNOW! I... I CAN'T GO BACK THERE AGAIN! YOU MUST HELP ME!
YES, OF COURSE I WILL, GOVERNOR!
6

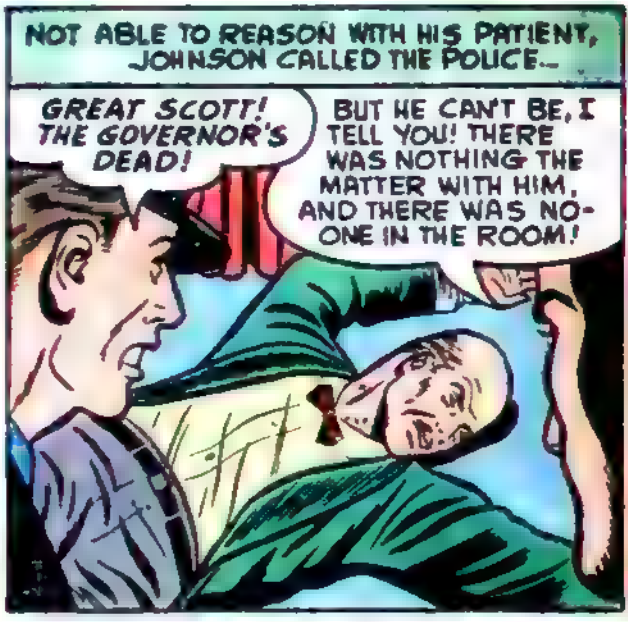

YOU CAN STAY HERE THIS EVENING IF YOU LIKE, GOVERNOR, BUT TOMORROW YOU AND I WILL GO FIND THIS BOGEY HAND OF YOURS! BUT I'M SURE IT'S AN HALLUCINATION! YOU'RE TIRED! YOU NEED A REST!


DR. JOHNSON MADE LAWRENCE PROMISE THAT IF THE HAND WAS NOT FOUND WITHIN THREE DAYS, HE WOULD GO WITH HIM TO A REST HOME, ADMITTING IT WAS AN HALLUCINATION!


THREE DAYS LATER...
WELL, GOVERNOR, WE'VE TRIED TO FIND IT FOR THREE DAYS NOW! BALORE DIES TONIGHT, YOU KNOW!
I...I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE HAND WAS THERE! MAYBE WHEN BALORE IS DEAD--I'LL BE BETTER!

AT EXACTLY 12 O'CLOCK, HANS BALORE DIED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR...


AT THAT SAME MOMENT...
ARRGHH! IT'S AT...MY... THROAT! I CAN'T GET FREE! HELP! HELP!
WHAT IS IT? I CAN'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING!


NOT ABLE TO REASON WITH HIS PATIENT, JOHNSON CALLED THE POLICE...
GREAT SCOTT! THE GOVERNOR'S DEAD!
BUT HE CAN'T BE, I TELL YOU! THERE WAS NOTHING THE MATTER WITH HIM, AND THERE WAS NO-ONE IN THE ROOM!

OH, NO? THEN WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
A DISTORTED SET OF FINGER-PRINTS...WITH...WITH THE INDEX FINGER MISSING! HE'S BEEN STRANGLED! GOOD LORD! BALORE'S HAND! IS IT POSSIBLE!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, DOCTOR?
NOTHING, SIR! NOTHING...LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FAST!
FOR MAT JOHNSON KNEW NOW THAT THE FANTASTIC STORY THAT WARREN LAWRENCE HAD TOLD HIM WAS NOT SO FANTASTIC...THAT THERE ARE SUCH THINGS AS GHOSTS AND THAT CURSES CAN COME TRUE, AFTER ALL... HANS BALORE WAS REVENGED!
THE END

Reducing Specialist Says:

LOSE WEIGHT Where It Shows Most REDUCE MOST ANY PART OF THE BODY WITH

Underwriters Laboratory Approved

Spot Reducer

Relaxing • Soothing Penetrating Massage

PLUG IN
GRASP
HANDLE
AND
APPLY

TAKE OFF EXCESS WEIGHT!

Don't Stay FAT—You Can LOSE POUNDS and INCHES SAFELY Without RISKING HEALTH

Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and Turkish baths—MASSAGE!

LIKE a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steambaths, drugs or laxatives.

With the SPOT REDUCER you can now enjoy the benefits of RELAXING, SOOTHING massage in the privacy of your own home! Simple to use—just plug in, grasp handle and apply over most any part of the body—stomach, hips, chest, neck, thighs, arms, buttocks, etc. The relaxing, soothing massage breaks down FATTY TISSUES, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat—helps you regain and keep a firmer and more GRACEFUL FIGURE!

YOUR OWN PRIVATE MASSEUR AT HOME

When you use the Spot Reducer it's almost like having your own private masseur at home. It's fun reducing this way! It not only helps you reduce and keep slim—but also aids in the relief of those types of aches and pains—and tired nerves that can be helped by massage! The Spot Reducer is handsomely made of light weight aluminum and rubber and truly a beautiful invention you will be thankful you own. AC 110 volts. Underwriters Laboratory approved.

TRY THE SPOT REDUCER 10 DAYS FREE IN YOUR OWN HOME!

Mail this coupon with only $1 for your Spot Reducer on approval. Pay postman $8.95 plus delivery—or send $8.95 full price and we ship postage prepaid. Use it for ten days in your own home. Then if not delighted return Spot Reducer for full purchase price refund. Don't delay! You have nothing to lose—except ugly, embarrassing, undesirable pounds of FAT. MAIL COUPON now!

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MAIL THIS TO DAY FREE TRIAL COUPON NOW

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LOSE WEIGHT OR NO CHARGE

USED BY EXPERTS

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SPOT REDUCER CO., Dept. E-977
318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey

Please send me the Spot Reducer for 10 days trial period. I enclose $1. Upon arrival I will pay postman only $8.95 plus postage and handling. If not delighted I may return SPOT REDUCER within 10 days for prompt refund of full purchase price.

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STRANGE CURSE OF THE MOUNTAIN

By ELLEN LYNN

MOST people think of a mountain as a thing of majesty, beauty, or sport. But to me a mountain is a thing of terror, strange mystery and horrible death.

Our little village of Glencairn, consisting of only twenty families, once lived a happy, busy life at the foot of the magnificent mountain-peak, St. Anne. We all loved our beautiful mountain—and, strange as it may sound, we felt that Mt St. Anne loved us. No one in our community ever lost his life on that mountain—although we got our livelihood solely from its resources. There were never landslides in the summer, nor snow avalanches in the spring, which made us feel as though we were especially protected.

It was two years ago that the notorious Bailey Ferris made a surprise visit to our village. His powerful car took to our rough roads with amazing ease and speed. In the flashy style of the typical gambler, Bailey made a handsome and striking appearance, but I remember how I felt suddenly afraid to see this bold outsider looking over our secluded, peaceful village.

My daughter, Janice, the village teacher, was just coming out of the little schoolhouse and I saw her stop and stare at Bailey Ferris. He was staring at her, too—and again a pang of sudden, unexplained fear coursed through me. There were two other flashy-looking individuals in the car with him and soon they continued on their way.

The whole village was agog over this visit of the notorious gambler. We all wondered what he could possibly want here, and we all were nervous. His entire stay lasted a week but his activities were completely mysterious. The second day he paid a call at the schoolhouse. When my daughter, Janice, came home she seemed unusually distracted, a strange smile hovering on her lips.

"Dad," she said sometime later, "Bailey Ferris came to the school today. He introduced himself—didn't try to hide his identity from me. When—when you talk to him he—he doesn't seem like a notorious character at all."

"Watch your step, daughter," was all I could say. "That's all front. He's got a bad reputation, and there must be a reason for it."

But Janice seemed to be caught in a spell. She spent some part of every day in his company and I dreaded seeing the brightness in her eyes, hearing the lilt in her laugh whenever she returned from some date with Bailey.

It was the sixth day that the blow fell heavily on our village. It got around fast that Bailey was there to oust us from the village, buy up all the village, buy up all the land and set up a gambling and ski resort. Underneath the shock of this news I felt also a sense of relief: now Janice would see this Bailey as he really was and would get over the infatuation—or whatever it was—that she obviously was experiencing.

Our little band fought with every means we knew, short of violence, to resist the despoiling of our happy village of Glencairn, but nothing could stop a man from buying up property that was available—and none of us owned the land we had lived on so many years.

That day I noticed Janice was in a state of gloom—to my relief. She came straight home after school and was going that night to the square dance with Hunt Harris. "She'll get over it," I assured myself. "She couldn't really love such a heel." All the villagers, even the older generation, go to the square dances and I accompanied the young folks there. Janice danced—the young men wouldn't leave her alone. She was a mighty pretty girl and very popular. But she was not herself. I was sure she was thinking of that Bailey Ferris.

Then, for one moment, I saw her eyes light up. Bailey had come into the door. He beckoned to her and I saw her hesitate. Then she left her partner and went to Bailey. They had a heated argument; he was grabbing her arm and I started to go to them on the steps outside when Janice pulled away and came back into the room, her eyes flashing. Bailey dashed into his car and sped away.

The next day we all received notices that we had a month to get out. There was nothing we could do so we decided to move en masse to the other side of Mt. St. Anne where some broken-down dwellings, long deserted, still stood. We would repair them as best we could in the short time and move in. People, years ago, had tried living there but many disasters—landslides, avalanches—had finally forced them to leave. Gloomily, we all took up our lives there and in a mood of pessimism called our new village, "Hope's End." In a year's time, Bailey Ferris had built up a lavish resort at Glencairn, where the rich came to gamble and ski. With bitterness in our hearts toward him, we all kept to ourselves and made it

a matter of principle never to return to Glencairn.

But Janice returned there. To my grief, she had fallen madly in love with Bailey and when one day he appeared at our house to see her she went gladly with him—despite my protests, warnings, threats. How I wish it weren't so, but he seemed to be really in love with Janice and wanted to lavish her with the luxuries of his misbegotten wealth. He told her they would be married. Then, as he walked out of the house with my daughter, he laughed at me. In a rage, I called down the curse of the mountain upon him. I demanded revenge and asked our mountain to wreak vengeance upon Bailey Ferris.

The life at Glencairn proved a horrible disappointment to Janice—the gambling, drinking, card-playing, with Bailey usually engaged in a game of poker were not to Janice's taste. Her love for Bailey was real but she led an unhappy existence. And she couldn't come back to "Hope's End." She had become an outcast to the bitter villagers.

One early morning, with the snow on Mt. St. Anne glistening in a brilliant sunlight, Janice went out alone for a ski run. She reached the very top with the ski-tow and then started down. Then that dreaded sound of an avalanche—a loud roar—broke the morning silence. Numb with terror Janice made a futile attempt to change her course but tons of snow and ice hurtled down and overwhelmed her. Her groping fingers, her struggling arms reached upward—but she sank into unconsciousness.

The disaster had been seen in Glencairn. A rescue party set out immediately and in a few hours Janice was found and brought below. By a wondrous miracle she was alive, and I'll say this much for Bailey, he saw that she got every possible attention, medical and nursing. He showered her with gifts and affection.

Two days after the accident, Janice wanted to speak to Bailey. She seemed anxious, overwrought. "Bailey—I must tell you," she began. "But—you won't believe it. It will sound crazy."

"Tell me anyway," Bailey urged her. "Let's hear what it's all about, honey."

'You know," she began, "I had been completely buried under the snow. I felt myself suffocating, gasping for air, but my nostrils were clogged with snow. Then I felt hands grabbing me. Snow was being shoveled away from me and I was being pulled out from that cold grave. In my shocked state I thought I was dreaming but the hands belonged to—oh, you'll think me mad—to a—skeleton! And the other pair to a creature—like a bat—but tall, almost human. I fell unconscious, but I came to again in a shallow cave. Again I saw the same—creatures. They were playing cards! They were talking. The skeleton belonged to a man who had been killed by an avalanche on the wrong side of the mountain—where we built 'Hope's End.' The other thing—was a Vampire! He considered the entire mountain his domain—and the two things were gambling—the skeleton for my—my soul, the vampire for my blood!"

Bailey started to laugh. "Baby, your head was hit. That was a fancy dream you had."

"Stop! Stop laughing!" Janice yelled. "I tell you it wasn't a dream. We all heard the rescue party approaching. The one that was the Vampire said—'We can wait—we have all the time in the world.' From fright, shock, horror, I passed out again—but those creatures were there I tell you."

Janice was so overwrought, Bailey could not quiet her. "All right," he said finally. "We'll form a skiing party and go back to the spot where we found you. Whatever it was there that scared you—we'll come back and tell you about it." Half afraid, half eager to know, Janice agreed that a group should go.

When the time came Janice was ready to join the party. Bailey was angry and tried to stop her, but she was firm, insisted upon going along.

The party went to the peak by the tow-line, then Janice, holding hands with Bailey, led the way down. Some strange force seemed to be pulling her downward, her eyes were bright and her lips were smiling. The people following could not get the speed that carried Janice and Bailey far ahead and out of sight.

And then again tragedy fell. A terrific avalanche started just ahead of the scouting party and they stopped short, horrified at the realization that the two skiers ahead were bound to be hit by the falling snow and ice.

It was all over quickly. Becoming a searching party, the skiers hurried to get to Janice and Bailey, hoping against hope that they would not be too late. Suddenly a skier let out a frantic yell—he had come upon a cave. As they all hastened inside the sight they beheld left them speechless.

A motionless skeleton, in a sitting position propped up against a wall, was facing another skeleton—whose queer outlines, with winglike appendages, made them all remember as though with one thought, Janice's story of the gamble for her soul. An ace of spades lay between them upturned—and lying on the ground dead were the bodies of—Janice and Bailey.

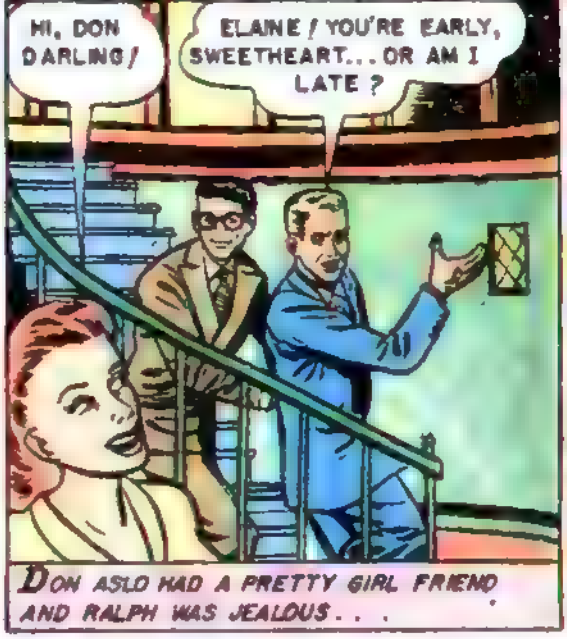
But no one ever knew which creature won the gamble.

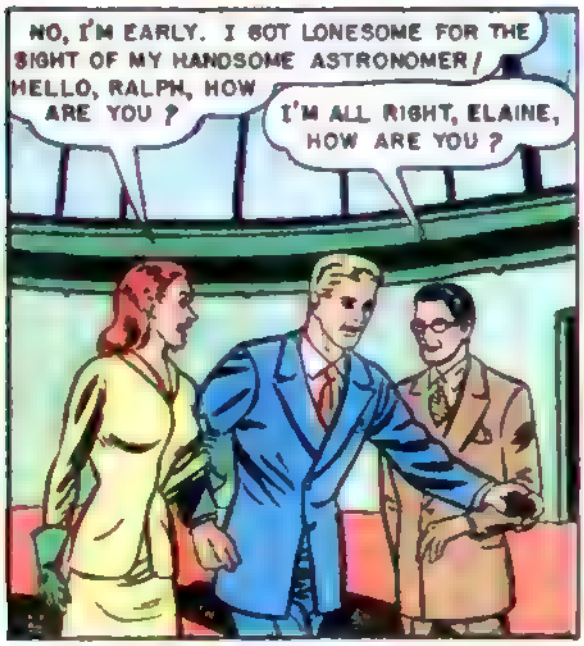
THE END

THE EYES OF DEATH!

A great astronomer lifts his telescope and peers upward into the heavens... but instead of stars, he sees DEATH! The elements of the supernatural invade the celestial beings to produce this tale of things beyond life. A tale which will bring before your very vision—— —— —— the EYES of DEATH!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, RALPH / I'VE GOT TERRIFIC EYES...AND AS LONG AS I CAN SEE, EVERYTHING'LL BE OKAY / LET'S KNOCK OFF FOR THE NIGHT /
OKAY, YOU'RE THE BOSS /
I'M A MUCH BETTER ASTRONOMER. YOU DON'T DESERVE THOSE EYES /

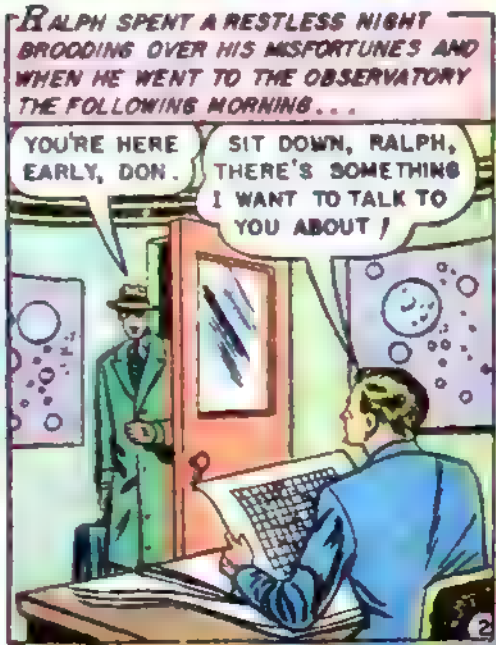

HI, DON DARLING /
ELAINE / YOU'RE EARLY, SWEETHEART... OR AM I LATE ?
DON ASLO HAD A PRETTY GIRL FRIEND AND RALPH WAS JEALOUS . . .

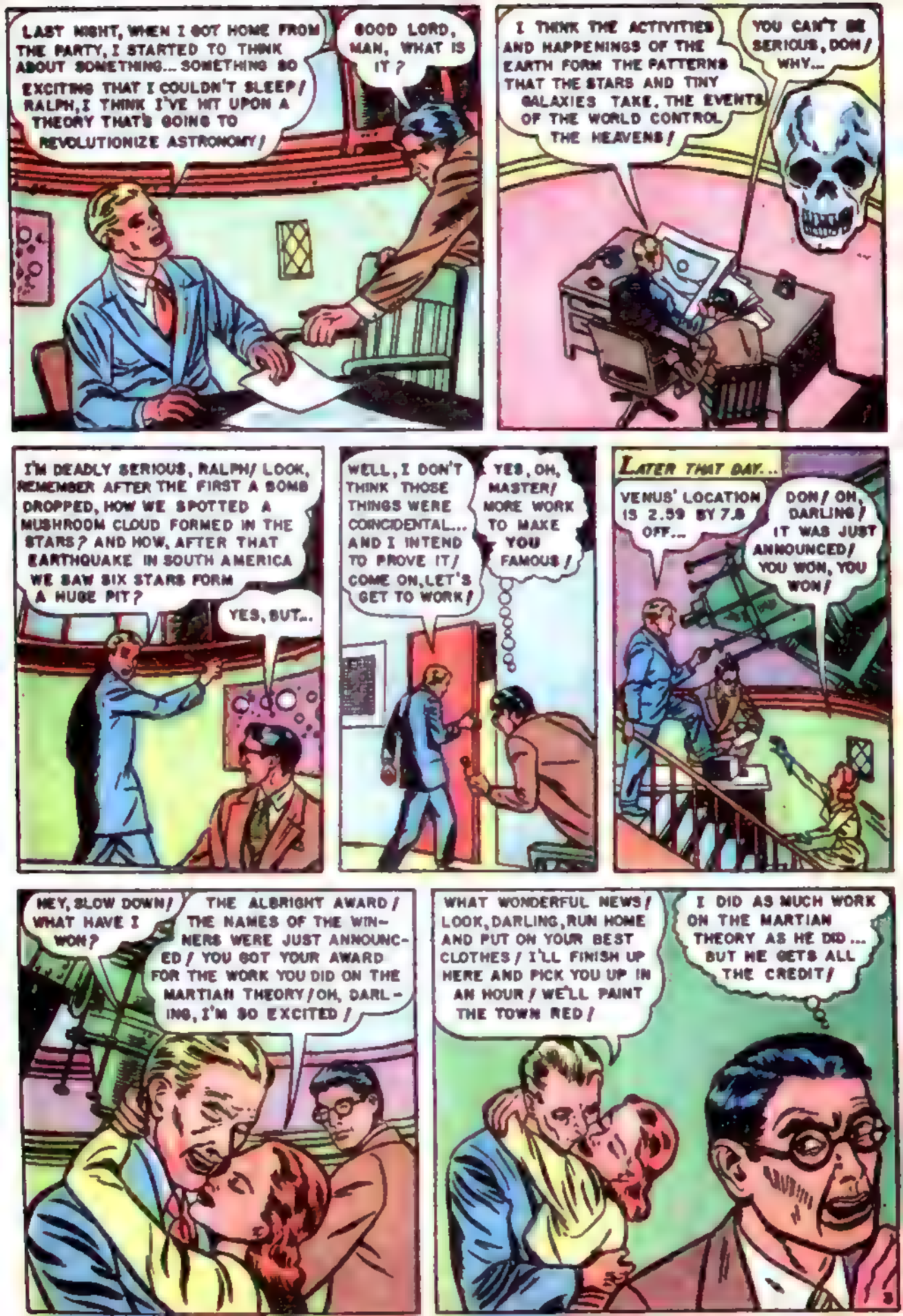

NO, I'M EARLY. I GOT LONESOME FOR THE SIGHT OF MY HANDSOME ASTRONOMER / HELLO, RALPH, HOW ARE YOU ?
I'M ALL RIGHT, ELAINE, HOW ARE YOU ?

I'M WONDERFUL.. ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I'VE DRAGGED MY DARLING AWAY FROM HIS BELOVED TELESCOPE / C'MON, DON, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE PARTY /
'NIGHT, RALPH... SEE YOU TOMORROW /
OBSERVATORY ENTRANCE

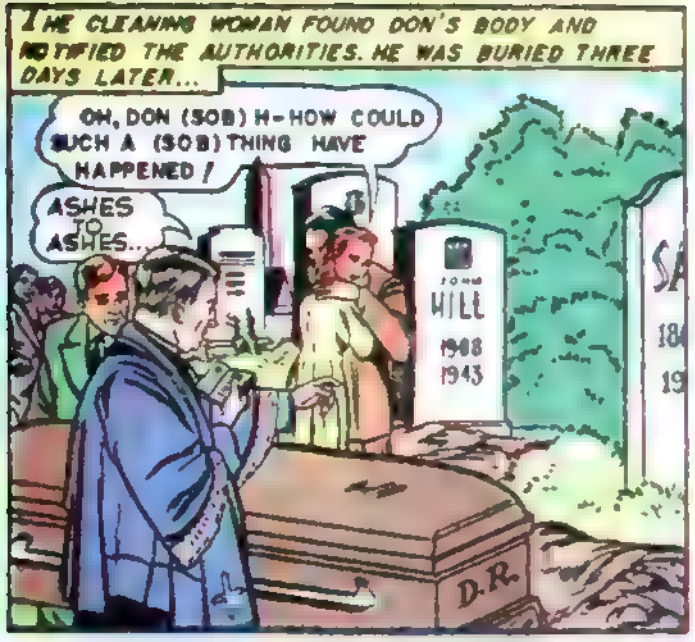
I'M BEGINNING TO HATE THE GREAT DON REYNOLDS / WHY SHOULD HE HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT... SUCCESS, A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, A GOOD FUTURE / I DESPISE HIM /
WASH ROOM

IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THESE EYES / IF I HAD GOOD EYES...LIKE HIS... I COULD SEE / I'D EVEN BE HANDSOME WITHOUT THESE THICK GLASSES /


RALPH SPENT A RESTLESS NIGHT BROODING OVER HIS MISFORTUNES AND WHEN HE WENT TO THE OBSERVATORY THE FOLLOWING MORNING . . .
YOU'RE HERE EARLY, DON.
SIT DOWN, RALPH, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT /

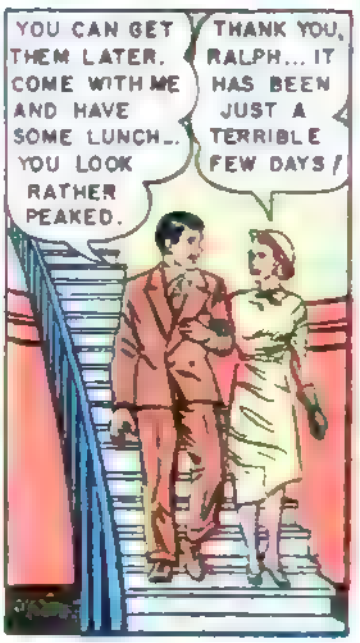

LAST NIGHT, WHEN I GOT HOME FROM THE PARTY, I STARTED TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING... SOMETHING SO EXCITING THAT I COULDN'T SLEEP! RALPH, I THINK I'VE HIT UPON A THEORY THAT'S GOING TO REVOLUTIONIZE ASTRONOMY!
GOOD LORD, MAN, WHAT IS IT?
I THINK THE ACTIVITIES AND HAPPENINGS OF THE EARTH FORM THE PATTERNS THAT THE STARS AND TINY GALAXIES TAKE. THE EVENTS OF THE WORLD CONTROL THE HEAVENS!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, DON! WHY...
I'M DEADLY SERIOUS, RALPH! LOOK, REMEMBER AFTER THE FIRST A BOMB DROPPED, HOW WE SPOTTED A MUSHROOM CLOUD FORMED IN THE STARS? AND HOW, AFTER THAT EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH AMERICA WE SAW SIX STARS FORM A HUGE PIT?
YES, BUT...
WELL, I DON'T THINK THOSE THINGS WERE COINCIDENTAL... AND I INTEND TO PROVE IT! COME ON, LET'S GET TO WORK!
YES, OH, MASTER! MORE WORK TO MAKE YOU FAMOUS!
LATER THAT DAY...
VENUS' LOCATION IS 2.39 BY 7.8 OFF...
DON! OH, DARLING! IT WAS JUST ANNOUNCED! YOU WON, YOU WON!
HEY, SLOW DOWN! WHAT HAVE I WON?
THE ALBRIGHT AWARD! THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS WERE JUST ANNOUNCED! YOU GOT YOUR AWARD FOR THE WORK YOU DID ON THE MARTIAN THEORY! OH, DARLING, I'M SO EXCITED!
WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS! LOOK, DARLING, RUN HOME AND PUT ON YOUR BEST CLOTHES! I'LL FINISH UP HERE AND PICK YOU UP IN AN HOUR! WE'LL PAINT THE TOWN RED!
I DID AS MUCH WORK ON THE MARTIAN THEORY AS HE DID... BUT HE GETS ALL THE CREDIT!

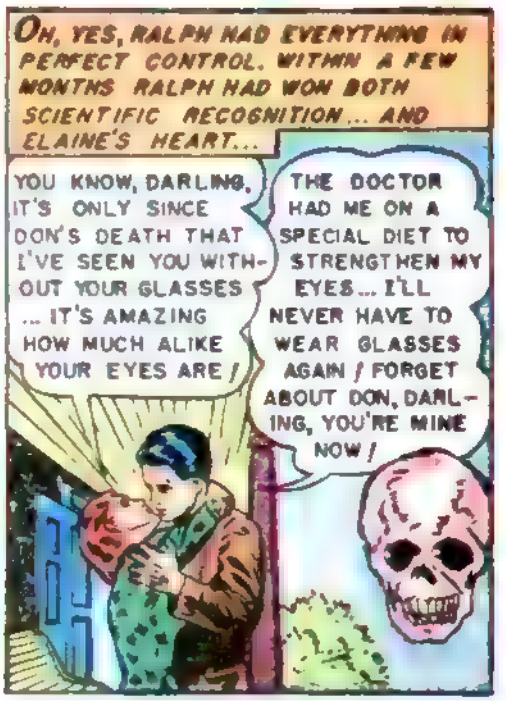
AFTER ELAINE LEFT...
WE'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY.. HEY/
LOOK, DON/ I WANT TO TALK TO YOU/ I'M SICK OF PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO YOU/ I WORKED HARD ON THAT MARTIAN THEORY TOO/ I DESERVE...
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, RALPH/ YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ON THAT PROJECT BUT TAKE NOTES/ YOUR EYES ARE SO WEAK THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN...
I'M FED UP WITH YOUR EGOTISTICAL RAVINGS/ YOU'VE CHEATED ME AND BELITTLED ME FOR THE LAST TIME/
WAIT A MINUTE, RALPH/ YOU DON'T MEAN WHAT YOU'RE... I-I'M SLIPPING/
HELP/ I-I AGHRRR/
SO LONG, MASTER-MIND/
AS RALPH MOORE LOOKED AT THE DEAD BODY OF DON, HE SUDDENLY HIT UPON A PLAN...
WHAT A PITY, DON/ THOSE BRIGHT EYES OF YOURS WON'T BE... HEY/ WAIT A MINUTE/ I'M GOING TO GET THOSE EYES/
RALPH HAD A COUSIN WHO WAS A SURGEON... A NASTY PHONE CALL BROUGHT HIM TO THE OBSERVATORY...
C-CAN YOU DO IT, FRANK? I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING... ANYTHING IF YOU TRANSFER HIS EYES TO ME/
I CAN DO IT, RALPH... IT'S UNETHICAL... BUT... ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT/ NO ONE WILL KNOW -- HE'LL BE BURIED WITH HIS EYES CLOSED/
SOME HOURS LATER, RALPH HAD WHAT HE HAD ALWAYS WANTED... DON REYNOLDS' EYES/
KEEP THOSE BANDAGES ON FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS, RALPH. AT THE END OF THAT TIME YOU SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT/
THANKS, FRANK/ I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME/

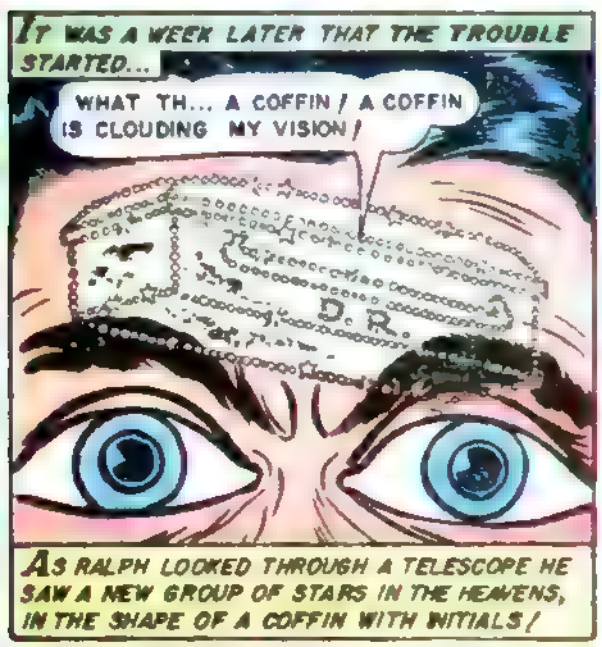

THE CLEANING WOMAN FOUND DON'S BODY AND NOTIFIED THE AUTHORITIES. HE WAS BURIED THREE DAYS LATER...
OH, DON (SOB) H-HOW COULD SUCH A (SOB) THING HAVE HAPPENED!
ASHES TO ASHES...
HILL
1908
1943
D.R.

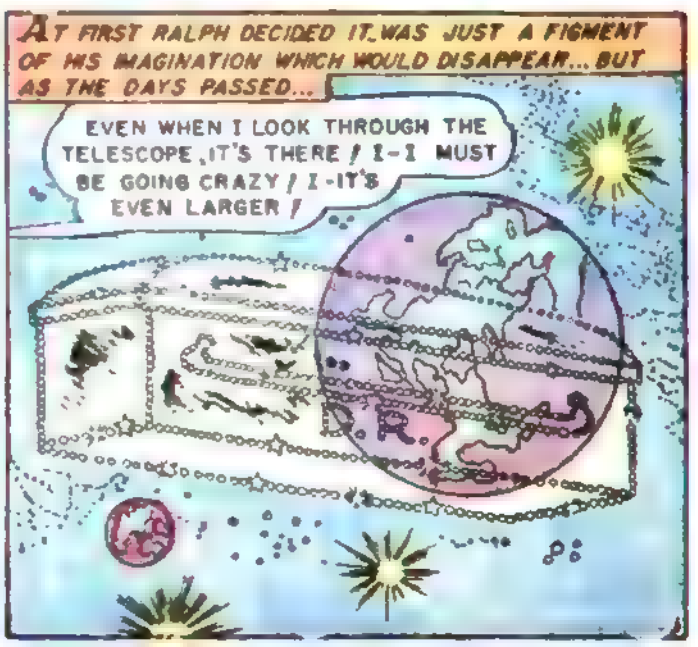
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR RALPH TO SUCCEED TO DON'S PLACE AT THE OBSERVATORY...
WITHIN A YEAR, PEOPLE WILL FORGET DON REYNOLDS! THEY'LL KNOW ME, THEY'LL...
RALPH, RALPH, HOW ARE YOU? IT'S ME, ELAINE!

WHY, ELAINE MY DEAR, HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME AND SEE ME!
I CAME TO GET SOME OF DON'S THINGS I WANTED TO...


YOU CAN GET THEM LATER. COME WITH ME AND HAVE SOME LUNCH.. YOU LOOK RATHER PEAKED.
THANK YOU, RALPH... IT HAS BEEN JUST A TERRIBLE FEW DAYS!


OH, YES, RALPH HAD EVERYTHING IN PERFECT CONTROL. WITHIN A FEW MONTHS RALPH HAD WON BOTH SCIENTIFIC RECOGNITION... AND ELAINE'S HEART...
YOU KNOW, DARLING, IT'S ONLY SINCE DON'S DEATH THAT I'VE SEEN YOU WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES ... IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH ALIKE YOUR EYES ARE!
THE DOCTOR HAD ME ON A SPECIAL DIET TO STRENGTHEN MY EYES... I'LL NEVER HAVE TO WEAR GLASSES AGAIN! FORGET ABOUT DON, DARLING, YOU'RE MINE NOW!

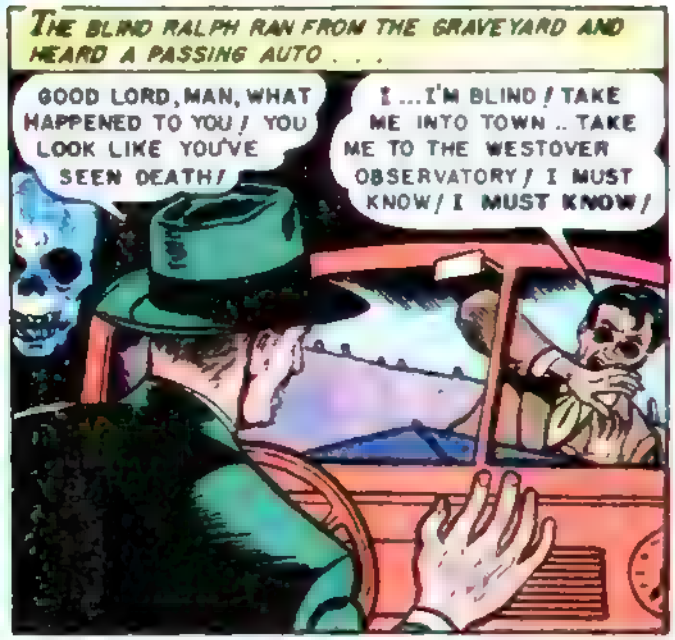

IT WAS A WEEK LATER THAT THE TROUBLE STARTED...
WHAT TH... A COFFIN! A COFFIN IS CLOUDING MY VISION!
D.R.
AS RALPH LOOKED THROUGH A TELESCOPE HE SAW A NEW GROUP OF STARS IN THE HEAVENS, IN THE SHAPE OF A COFFIN WITH INITIALS!

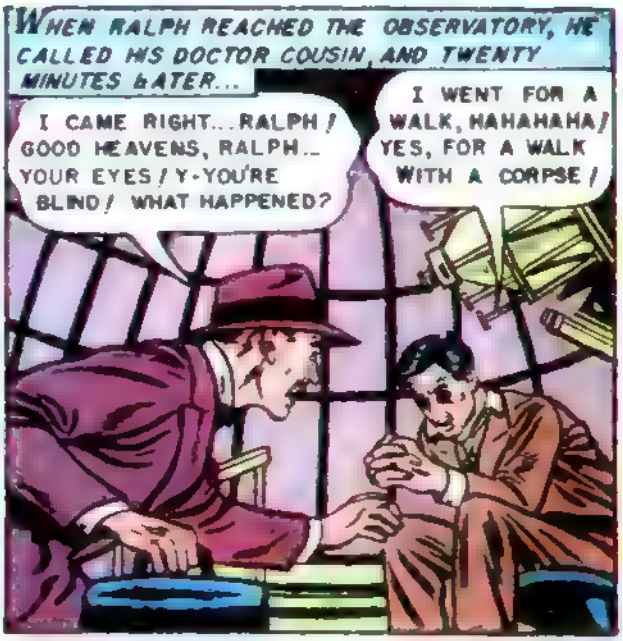

AT FIRST RALPH DECIDED IT WAS JUST A FIGMENT OF HIS IMAGINATION WHICH WOULD DISAPPEAR... BUT AS THE DAYS PASSED...
EVEN WHEN I LOOK THROUGH THE TELESCOPE, IT'S THERE! I-I MUST BE GOING CRAZY! I-IT'S EVEN LARGER!
D.R.

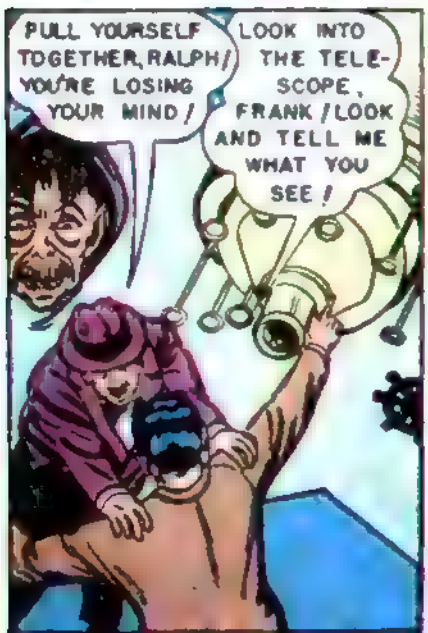
IN DESPERATION, RALPH WENT TO SEE HIS COUSIN, THE DOCTOR...
...NO MATTER WHAT I'M LOOKING AT, IT'S THERE / AND IT GETS BIGGER EVERY DAY... A COFFIN WITH DON REYNOLDS INITIALS ON IT /
YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, RALPH / I'VE EXAMINED YOUR EYES... THEY'RE PERFECT / THIS IS ALL YOUR IMAGINATION /
IMAGINATION / PERHAPS, BUT WHAT EVER IT WAS WHICH CAUSED THE COFFIN TO CLOUD RALPH'S VISION, HE DAILY CAME NEARER THE BREAKING POINT...
I - I CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY... I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING / I'VE GOT TO MAKE MYSELF WORK /
I - I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF THE SKY... IF THE COFFIN DOESN'T APPEAR ON THE NEGATIVE, I'LL KNOW IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION /
RALPH TOOK THE PICTURE, BUT BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO DEVELOP IT, SOMETHING IN HIS MIND FINALLY CRACKED...
DON'S BEHIND ALL THIS... I KNOW HE IS / BUT I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT / I'LL FINISH HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL /
AN HOUR LATER FOUND RALPH DIGGING AT THE GRAVE OF DON...
AH, I'VE HIT THE CASKET / I'LL FIX YOU, DON... I'M GOING TO DRIVE A STAKE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEART / THEN YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE /
GROVE
DONALD REYNOLDS
YOU'VE BEEN HAUNTING ME... BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT / I KNOW YOU'RE DEAD... AND JUST TO FINISH OFF YOUR SOUL, I'LL USE THIS STAKE /
D.R.
AND NOW TO... UGHHHRRR / D-DON / B-BUT IT CAN'T BE... YOU'RE DEAD / NO / NO /
YES, RALPH, I'M DEAD ... BUT I CANNOT REST ... I'LL NEVER REST WHILE YOU STILL HAVE MY EYES /
EGAN
SLOWLY, THE DEAD DON AROSE IN HIS COFFIN /

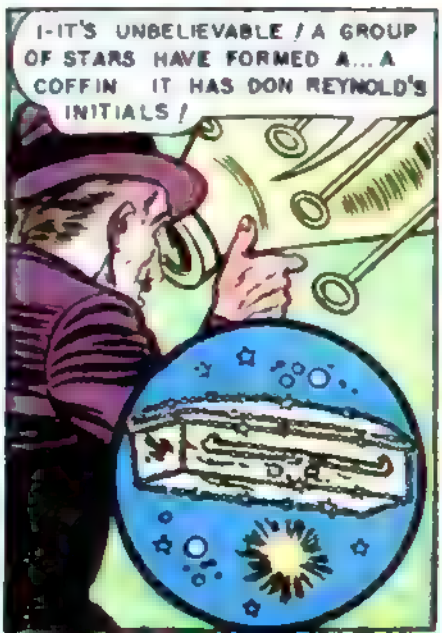
NO / STAY BACK / DON'T COME NEAR ME / I...I...
PERHAPS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME, RALPH... I WANT MY EYES BACK... AND I INTEND TO TAKE THEM /
GRAVE

STOP, YOU CA... ARGHRRRR /
THE DEAD DON TOOK THE EYES FROM RALPH'S HEAD . . .


THE BLIND RALPH RAN FROM THE GRAVEYARD AND HEARD A PASSING AUTO . . .
GOOD LORD, MAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU / YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN DEATH /
I ...I'M BLIND / TAKE ME INTO TOWN .. TAKE ME TO THE WESTOVER OBSERVATORY / I MUST KNOW / I MUST KNOW /


WHEN RALPH REACHED THE OBSERVATORY, HE CALLED HIS DOCTOR COUSIN, AND TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
I CAME RIGHT... RALPH / GOOD HEAVENS, RALPH.. YOUR EYES / Y-YOU'RE BLIND / WHAT HAPPENED?
I WENT FOR A WALK, HAHAHAHA / YES, FOR A WALK WITH A CORPSE /

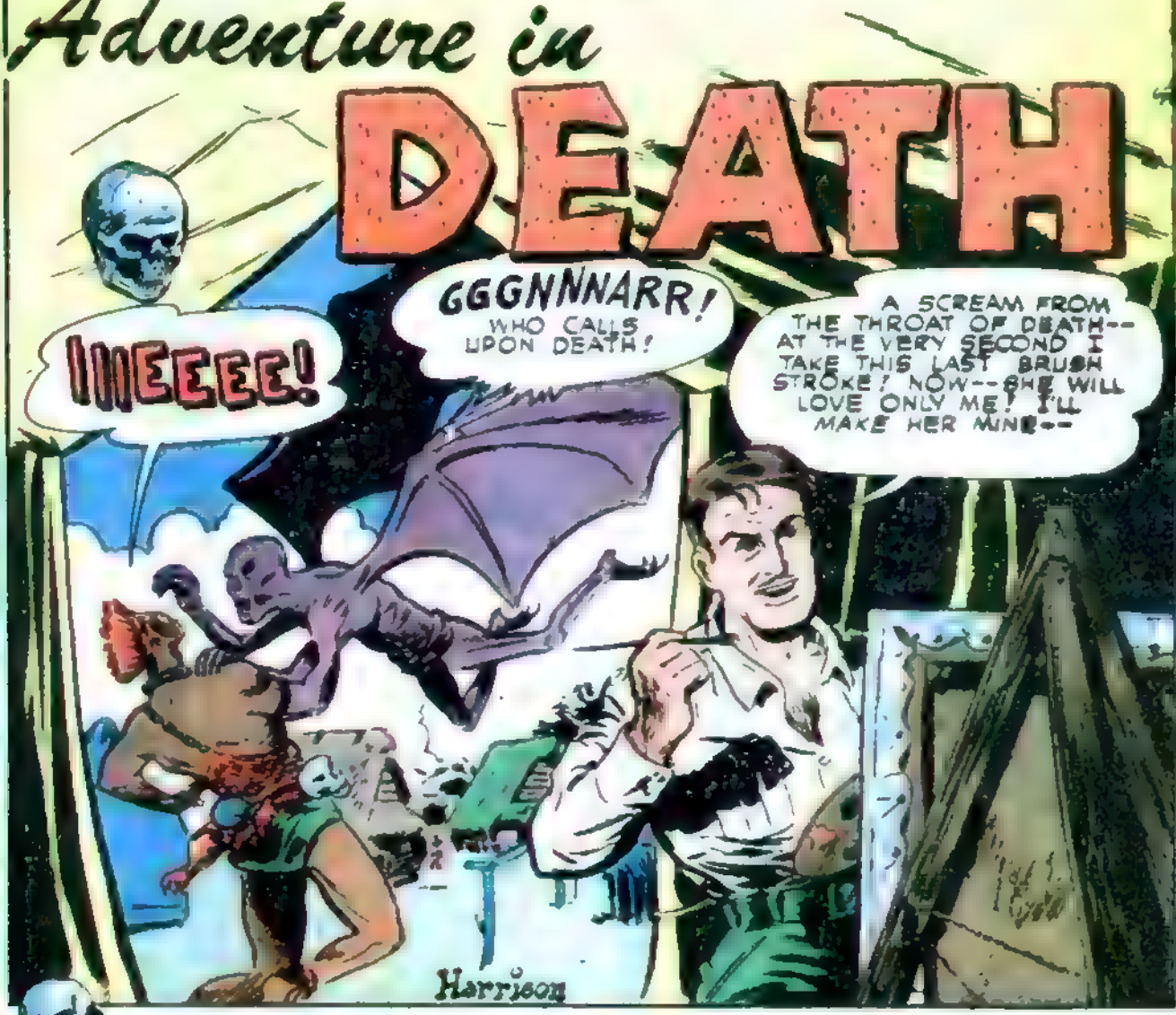

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, RALPH / YOU'RE LOSING YOUR MIND /
LOOK INTO THE TELE-SCOPE, FRANK / LOOK AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE /

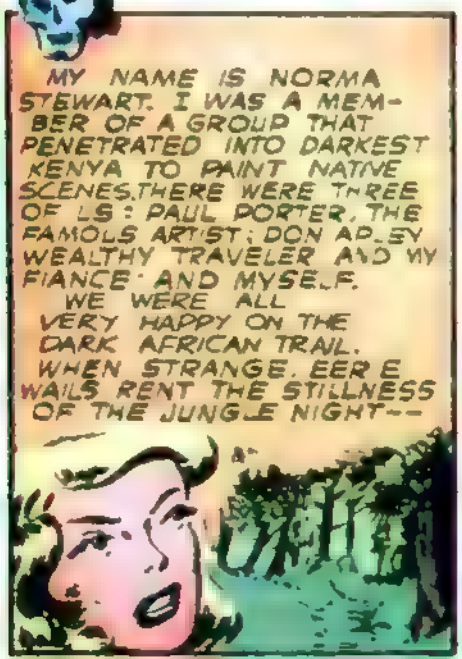

I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE / A GROUP OF STARS HAVE FORMED A... A COFFIN IT HAS DON REYNOLD'S INITIALS /

HE WAS RIGHT. HAHA... THE MASTER MIND WAS RIGHT / EVENTS ON EARTH CONTROL THE HEAVENS / HAHAHA /
RALPH SOON DIED. OTHER ASTRONOMERS ARE NOW STUDYING THE STRANGE NEW GALAXY BUT THEY ALL REMEMBER RALPH'S STORY EACH TIME THEY LOOK AT THE STARS / FOR STARS CAN BE THE EYES OF DEATH /

PRIMITIVE, BRUTAL AS THE THROB OF SAVAGE JUNGLE DRUMS! SUCH ARE THE EMOTIONS OF THIS "CIVILIZED" MAN WHO WOULD USE THE CRUEL AND DEADLY VOODUN MAGIC TO ELIMINATE A RIVAL FOR MY LOVE! YES, HERE IS TRULY A TALE OF EVIL---THE TALE OF PAUL PORTER'S---

Adventure in DEATH





SUDDENLY WE WERE SURROUNDED AND HELD CAPTIVE-----
SEE! WHITE DEVILS! THE CAUSE OF THE CHILD'S SICKNESS--
WE WERE ACCUSED OF BRINGING HARM TO THE NATIVE CHIEF'S SON!
KILL THEM! --YOUR SON'S LIFE DEPENDS UPON THEIR DEATH--
HOLD ON! LET'S SEE THE BOY, MAYBE I CAN HELP HIM!
HOPE I CAN USE THIS BLUFF.
ARE YOU A MEDICINE-MAN? THIS IS MY ONLY SON- OUR MEDICINE MAN AFRAID MOVE THORN SAY SON BLEED TO DEATH.
I AM THE GREATEST IN MY COUNTRY--- I CAN HELP YOUR BOY! THERE'S A LARGE THORN DRIVEN INTO THE BOY'S SPINE-)
DEFTLY, PAUL REMOVED THE THORN. HE USED THE WONDERFUL SULFA POWDER WE BROUGHT WITH US. THE BLEEDING STOPPED AND AT ONCE THE BOY SHOWED SIGNS OF RECOVERING--
IN GRATITUDE, WHITE MAN, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK.
I ASK ONE THING- TEACH ME THE SECRETS OF VOODUN!
OH NO, PAUL, LET'S LEAVE.
LATER THAT AFTERNOON---
LET'S LEAVE PAUL, IT'S DANGEROUS TO MIX WITH THEIR CUSTOMS.
IF WE LEARN THE REAL NATIVE VOODOO SECRETS WE CAN PAINT REAL VOODOO SCENES.. WE WILL BE FAMOUS!
MAYBE ITS WORTH A TRY, DON?
THROUGHOUT THAT NIGHT THE SAVAGE DRUMS ANNOUNCED THE CHIEF'S JOY. THEN--- JUST AT DAWN--
WHITE MAN WHO SAVED MY SON--COME WITH ME! I WILL TEACH YOU THAT WHICH YOU SPOKE OF THIS AFTERNOON--

I SAW BUT LITTLE OF PAUL IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED. I COULD NOT HELP BUT THINK BACK TO OUR FIRST MEETING WITH HIM---

--I WAS IN LOVE WITH DON AND HE WITH ME. THEN I MET PAUL..

WELL, DARLING, ENJOYING YOUR AFRICAN VACATION?

OH, YES! LOOK, DON, THERE'S THAT MAN I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. HE WANTS TO JOIN OUR PAINTING EXPEDITION.

HELLO, I'M PAUL PORTER. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY AMERICANS IN TOWN--

LATE INTO THAT EVENING WE TALKED. FINALLY--

AGREED! WE'LL GO BACK INTO THE INTERIOR ON A JOINT PAINTING EXPEDITION--TO PAINT SCENES OF THE NATIVES MAKING THESE IDOLS--

IF WE DON'T HARM THE NATIVES I'M SURE WE WILL BE SAFE.

PAUL TRIED TO BECOME VERY FRIENDLY WITH ME. I REBUFFED HIM AND KNEW HE WAS JEALOUS OF DON---

NOW YOU KNOW ALL! THE MAGIC OF VOODUN IS YOURS!

I AM WEARY, GREAT CHIEF, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT--

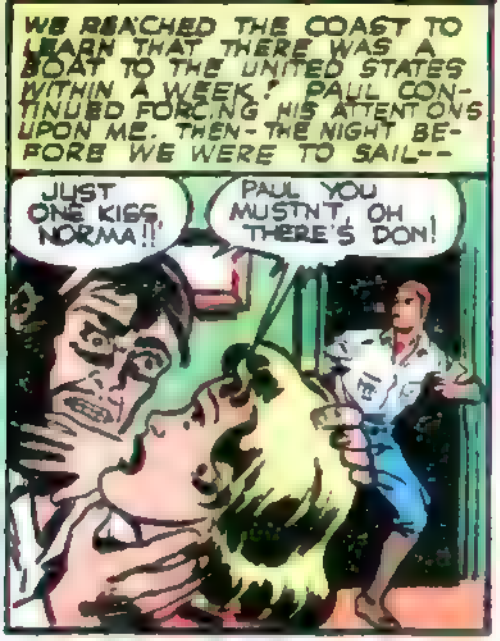
PAUL LEARNED THAT IN VOODUN YOU CAN DESTROY AN ENEMY BY DESTROYING HIS IMAGE..

REMEMBER--VOODUN PRACTICED UPON AN ENEMY IS POWERFUL ONLY AS LONG AS THE VOODUN IMAGE IS INTACT! NEVER DESTROY THE IMAGE. IF YOU DO, THE ENEMY BECOMES ALIVE AGAIN.

AFTER HE HAD LEARNED THE EVIL VOODUN, PAUL AGAIN TRIED TO MAKE LOVE TO ME...

PAUL, I LOVE DON. I LIKE YOU, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT I BELONG TO HIM!

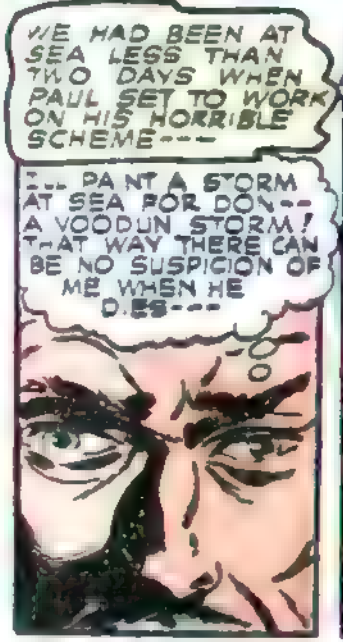
PAUL ACCEPTED MY REBUFF AND RETURNED TO HIS ART, HIS PAINTING! THE VERY NEXT MORNING---
IT'S VERY GOOD- ISN'T IT, NORMA?
UH-OH, YES.
I'LL WAIT UNTIL I TRULY LEARN TO USE THE ART OF VOODUN--
IN VOODUN, ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS AN IMAGE! WHY COULDN'T AN OIL PAINTING SERVE JUST AS WELL?
PAUL PAINTED THE MEDICINE MANS DEATH BY AN EVIL THING...
BUT ALL THE TIME PAUL WAS HATCHING AN EVIL SCHEME! HE WOULD SUBSTITUTE IMAGES IN PAINT FOR VOODOO DOLLS. HE WOULD TEST HIS THEORY ON THE MEDICINE MAN WHO HATED HIM!
AHH-- HE'S ALONE! NOW I'LL SPEAR THE WHITE DEVIL--
MY THEORY WORKED! I DON'T NEED AN IMAGE--ALL I NEED IS A PAINTING!
GRAAAGH!
I TAUGHT YOU VOODUN IN GRATITUDE! YOU USE IT FOR EVIL! GO! LEAVE MY LANDS AT ONCE--
O.K. BUT HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
BY NIGHTFALL WE WERE ON OUR WAY BACK TO THE COAST, GUARDED BY SULLEN WARRIORS---
I AM GLAD WE ARE LEAVING, PAUL.
ME TOO, NORMA. PLEASE LET US BE FRIENDS!!


WE REACHED THE COAST TO LEARN THAT THERE WAS A BOAT TO THE UNITED STATES WITHIN A WEEK! PAUL CONTINUED FORCING HIS ATTENTIONS UPON ME. THEN - THE NIGHT BEFORE WE WERE TO SAIL--
JUST ONE KISS, NORMA!!
PAUL YOU MUSTN'T, OH THERE'S DON!

THAT'LL TEACH YOU!
OH, DON-- PLEASE-- I'M AFRAID! HE'S-- HE'S--

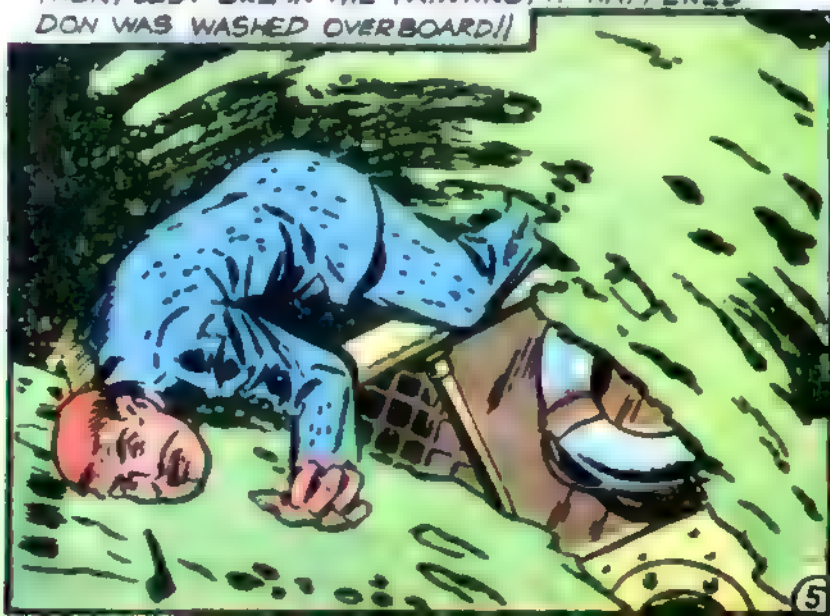
YOU'LL RUE THAT BLOW. NOW I'LL NOT ONLY TAKE NORMA, BUT I'LL KILL YOU AS WELL!

LEAVE NORMA ALONE--
GURG, DON, SURE--
BOAT JUST DOCKED, M'SS. SAILS IN TWO HOURS--


WE HAD BEEN AT SEA LESS THAN TWO DAYS WHEN PAUL SET TO WORK ON HIS HORRIBLE SCHEME---
I--- PAINT A STORM AT SEA FOR DON-- A VOODUN STORM! THAT WAY THERE CAN BE NO SUSPICION OF ME WHEN HE DIES---

ON THROUGH THE NIGHT PAUL PAINTED AND AS HE PAINTED A GREAT STORM AROSE---
NEVER KNOWN SUCH A STORM BEFORE AT THIS TYME OF YEAR / BETTER GO INSIDE--
GO AHEAD, NORMA, I WANT TO WATCH AWHILE--
ALONE IN HIS CABIN, PAUL WAS PAINTING A SCENE OF DON BEING WASHED OVERBOARD IN A STORM--

THERE! 'TIS DONE! THE LAST BRUSH STROKE--


THEN, JUST LIKE IN THE PAINTING, IT HAPPENED--- DON WAS WASHED OVERBOARD!!
5

YES--DON WAS GONE! THEN IT WAS THAT PAUL CAME TO ME AFTER OUR SEARCH IN THE RAGING STORM PROVED FRUITLESS---
SORRY MISS, BUT WE MUST ABANDON OUR SEARCH--
UH-NO--NO--
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU! DON'T WORRY--
AND SO HE DID. WITH DON GONE I HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO BUT PAUL. WE WERE MARRIED WITHIN SIX MONTHS---
WELCOME HOME, DARLING. WE'LL LIVE HERE IN MY CAPE COD STUDIO--
OH PAUL-IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
MEANWHILE, PAUL KNEW HE HAD TO SAVE THE PAINTING OR DON WOULD RETURN FROM THE GRAVE...
I'LL HIDE THE PAINTING HERE SO NO ONE WILL EVER FIND IT OR DESTROY--
AND--I NEVER DID FIND IT! BUT-----OTHERS DID!
KRASP
I WAS CONTENT-- AND WE CONTINUED OUR PAINTING--
THERE. WE'LL START YOUR PAINTING LESSONS TODAY-- I'LL MODEL FOR YOU.
PAUL-- THIS IS THE PAINTING KIT YOU HAD IN AFRICA, ISN'T IT? LET ME USE IT.
ALL THE WHILE BELOW US, THE RATS WERE EATING THE HIDDEN VOODUN PAINTING---
RASSP
SQUEEK
AND THEN---THE LAST SHRED OF THE VOODUN PAINTING WAS EATEN! AT THAT VERY SECOND--- DON AROSE FROM HIS WATERY GRAVE!!
SO STARTED DON'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY FROM THE TURGID DEPTHS OF THE ATLANTIC ON-ON TO THE SUN AND WIND SWEPT BEACHES OF CAPE COD---

BACK IN OUR COTTAGE DUSK HAD FALLEN---
LOOK! THERE ON THE BEACH! NO (GASP) NO!
THERE--MY PAINTING OF YOU IS DONE!
IIIEEEE!
DON! KEEP AWAY!
YOUR DEAD! GO AWAY!!
EEEEEEE
PAUL CLUTCHED DON AND LED HIM BACK TO THE OCEAN DEPTHS...
MINUTES, HOURS LATER THE POLICE ARRIVED--- SUMMONED, NO DOUBT, BY MY HYSTERICAL SCREAMS--
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT IT'S TRUE, I TELL YOU, TRUE! AND I CAN PROVE IT!
PROVE IT? IMPOSSIBLE. NO ONE COULD PROVE THE INCREDIBLE TALE YOU'VE JUST TOLD US---
BUT LOOK! THE FLOOR IS WET!
I TRIED TO AND DID. BUT THEY STILL WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!
BEGORRA! THOSE WET FOOT PRINTS- THAT WET FLOOR-- I SEE THEM BUT I WON'T BELIEVE IT-- I CAN'T!
NOW I SIT HERE IN THIS CELL--- THEY SAY I'M UNSAFE! THE TIDE TOOK AWAY MY ONLY EVIDENCE---- MY ONLY PROOF THAT A WATER-LOGGED CORPSE AND IT'S UNWILLING VICTIM DID WALK, SIDE BY SIDE, DOWN INTO THE CONCEALING DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN---
7

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS WITH WARD'S FORMULA

NOTHING, *Absolutely nothing known to Science can do more to*

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all four* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—*on contact*
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—*last*
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—*quickly*
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—*instantly*
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—*within 3 seconds*

Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe *us*. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have *proved* what we say. Read *their* grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's *better* than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at *our* risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy *all* the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. You be the judge!

© Ward Laboratories Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y.

TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW

Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

Proof! We get letters like these every day from grateful men and women all over the world

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the *most* help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no *dandruff!* *W. T. W., Portola, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but Double Your Money Back unless you actually SEE, FEEL and ENJOY all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion of the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

SEAL

Ward Laboratories Inc.

ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!

Ward Laboratories Inc.
1430 Broadway, Dept. 6706-W, New York 18, N.Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone..... State.....

☐ Check here if you enclose $2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course. *APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 50¢; no C.O.D.s.*

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

She'll be your "Dream Girl"
You'll "Bewitch" her with it

Bewitching

Daring "BLACK MAGIC"

"DREAM GIRL" She'll look alluring, breathtaking, enticing, exotic . . . Just picture her in it . . . beautiful, fascinating SEE-THRU sheer. Naughty but nice . . . It's French Fashion finery . . . with peek-a-boo magic lace . . . Gorgeously transparent yet completely practical (washes like a dream . . . will not shrink). Has lacy waistline, lacy shoulder straps and everything to make her love you for it. A charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion . . . In gorgeous Black.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back.

DREAM GIRL FASHION DEPT. 99.
318 MARKET ST., NEWARK, N. J.

Please send me DREAM GIRL gown at $9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

( ) I enclose $9.95 cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid (I save up to 90c postage). (You may get it at our store too!)

( ) I will pay postman $9.95 plus postage. Check size wanted:

☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40

IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Heaven Sent

Oriental Magic

Out of the pages of the Arabian Nights comes this glamorous sheer Harem pajama. She'll look beguiling, alluring, irresistible, enticing. She'll thrill to the sleek, clining wispy appeal that they will give her. She'll love you for transplanting her to a dream world of adoration centuries old. Brief figure hugging top gives flattering appeal to its daring bare midriff. *Doubled at the right places* it's the perfect answer for hostess wear. Billowing sheer bottoms for rich luxurious lounging. She'll adore you for this charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion. In wispy sheer black.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back.

DREAM GIRL FASHIONS DEPT 268.
318 MARKET ST., NEWARK, N. J.

Please send HEAVEN SENT gown at $9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

( ) I enclose $9.95 cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid (I save up to 90c postage). (You may get it at our store too!)

( ) I will pay postman $9.95 plus postage. Check size wanted:

☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40

IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Black Sorcery

Daring Bare-back She'll be entranced with it

Your Dream Girl will be an exquisite vision of allurement, charm, fascination and loveliness in this exotic, bewitching, daring, bare-back, filmy sheer gown. Its delicate, translucent fabric (washes like a dream) will not shrink. Paris at home, with this cleverly designed halter neck that ties or unties at the flick of a finger. Lavishly laced midriff and peek-a-boo bottom. She'll love you for this charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion. In exquisite black sheer.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back.

DREAM GIRL FASHIONS DEPT 386.
318 MARKET ST., NEWARK, N. J.

Please send BLACK SORCERY gown at $9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

( ) I enclose $9.95 cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid (I save up to 90c postage). (You may get it at our store too!)

( ) I will pay postman $9.95 plus postage. Check size wanted:

☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40

IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

AMAZING! AT TREMENDOUS SAVINGS!

NEWEST RECORDS

Hit Parade
Break-Resistant
Vinylite Filled

18

CHOOSE . . .

- ☐ HIT PARADE TUNES
- or
- ☐ MOST LOVED HYMNS
- or
- ☐ HILL BILLY HITS

Brand New Discovery—6-IN-1 Vinylite *BREAK-Resistant* Records—Play Up To 10 Full Minutes

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
These tunes are CONSTANTLY kept up to date—only the newest tunes are kept on the list.

ORDER BY MAIL AT 500% SAVINGS!

REGULAR 10" RECORDS Used On All Standard 78 R.P.M. Phonographs and Record Players.

YOUR FAVORITE GROUP OF SONGS!

ONLY $2.98

$16.02 VALUE 18 TUNES!

YOU GET

A $16.02 Value For $2.98 You SAVE $13.04

18 HIT PARADE TUNES

Domino
Undecided
Cold, Cold Heart
Because Of You
It's No Sin
Down Yonder
I Get Ideas
Slow Poke
Tell Me Why?
Just One More Chance

Cry
Turn Back The Hands of Time
The Little White Cloud That Cries
Charmaine
Anytime
Jealousy
Shrimp Boats
Be My Life's Companion

18 HILL BILLY HITS

If It Be Secret
May The Good Lord Bless and Keep You
Mr. Moon
Give Me More, More, More
Music Makin' Mamma from Memphis
Baby, We're Really In Love
I Wanna Play House With You
Hey, Good Lookin'
Too Old To Cut The Mustard

Let's Live a Little
Always Late
Cryin' Heart Blues
Cold, Cold Heart
Somebody's Been Beatin' My Time
Slow Poke
Let Old Mother Nature Have Her Way
Crazy Heart
Mom And Dad's Waltz

18 MOST LOVED HYMNS

The Lord's Prayer
Onward, Christian Soldiers
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Church In The Wildwood
In The Garden
Faith Of Our Fathers
There Is Power In The Blood
Leaning On The Everlasting Arm
Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

Trust On Me
Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross
Softly And Tenderly
Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
A Mighty Fortress
Sun Of My Soul
Just A Closer Walk with Thee
It Is No Secret
What God Can Be
May The Good Lord Bless And Keep You

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
These tunes are CONSTANTLY kept up to date—only the newest tunes are kept on the list.

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